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profusely, second half of September.

PLA claims killing
22 soldiers
the report

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AIROBI (R) — The Sudan
people's Liberation Army
SPLA) said Wednesday that its
forces killed 122 government
troops in an ambush in southern
Sudan on May 20. Radio SPLA
said in a broadcast monitored in
this area that it also destroyed 15
army trucks and two tanks during
the ambush between Torit and
Kapoeta on the main road from
Khartoum to the southern Sudanese capital of
Khartoum. It gave no details of SPLA losses.

Howell chosen U.S.
envoy to Kuwait
the report

WASHINGTON (AP) — Presi-
dent Ronald Reagan intends to
use the flamboyant W. Nathaniel Howell
Roman as U.S. ambassador to
Kuwait, the White House said
on Wednesday. A career foreign service
officer, Howell has served in
Egypt, France, Belgium, Lebanon
and Jordan. He is the United Arab
Emirates and Algeria. Recently,
American was political adviser to the
commander-in-chief of the U.S.
central command at MacDill Air
Force Base in Tampa, Florida.

India condemns
Sri Lankan action
the report

NEW DELHI (R) — India
condemned Sri Lanka's military
offensive against Tamil rebels
it through and warned Colombo of the long-
standing dangers of carrying out the
operation. External Minister Narain Dutt
said Wednesday. "The
rough the Government of India strongly
demanded the massive assault by
the Sri Lankan security forces
against the entire civilian population
of Jaffna (in northern Sri
Lanka)," Mr. Tiwari said in a
statement. "The Sri Lankan
offensive also signifies 'the in-
creasing influence of external in-
fluences, inimical to security, sta-
bility and peace in our region'."

Soviets change stand
on chemical weapons
the report

MOSCOW (R) — The chief Soviet
negotiator on chemical weapons
said Wednesday his country
agreed in principle with so-called
"quick challenge" inspections of
suspected chemical weapons storage
sites or production sites, marking
a "significant public shift in the
Soviet position." "In principle we
are agreed to the quick chal-
lenge," Yuri Nazarkin told Reuters
at an international symposium
in Washington. Mr. Nazarkin has previously
said he felt publicly rejected such rapid
inspections during negotiations on the
disarmament talks in Geneva, on the grounds
that they could be used for
"intelligence gathering."

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Hawke calls early elections

SYDNEY (AP) — Prime Minister Bob Hawke on Wednesday called an early election for July 13, saying he seeks a mandate to continue his leadership. Hawke hopes to become Australia's first Labour Party leader to be elected three times in succession. The 149-seat House of Representatives, which generally is elected every three years, and 76-seat Senate, half of which generally is elected every three years for six-year terms, will be dissolved June 5. An opinion poll released Wednesday gave Mr. Hawke a 57 per cent popularity rating, his highest in more than a year, compared with 37 per cent support for the opposition Liberal-National Coalition led by John Howard. Analysts, however, predicted the election results would be close. Labour currently has 82 seats in the house. The Liberals control 45 seats and the Nationals 21. The prime minister is chosen from the majority party in the house. Mr. Hawke first was elected in March 1983 and was re-elected in snap elections of December 1984. His term is normally three years, and he said three weeks ago his current government would serve it in full without calling early elections. But he told the House of Representatives on Wednesday, "The great need now is for certainty and continuity."

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية الراي

AMMAN, THURSDAY-FRIDAY MAY 28-29, 1987, SHAWWAL 1-2, 1407

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Bomb kills child

TRIPOLI (R) — A bomb killed a child on Wednesday in a building housing Syrian intelligence agents in Lebanon's northern port of Tripoli, police said. The police said the six-year-old child died instantly and nine other people were wounded when the bomb exploded in a Lebanese apartment on the third floor. Syrian army troops in Tripoli, who guard the six-floor block, immediately cordoned off the area. The explosion came hours after Ibrahim Atwi, a pro-Iranian doctor, lost both legs when a bomb blew up in his car near the south Lebanese port of Sidon (See story below). Six people were wounded Tuesday night in two nuisance bomb explosions in west Beirut, bringing the number of such attacks to 121 since Syrian troops deployed there in strength in February. Twelve major bomb blasts have killed about 41 people in various parts of Lebanon this year.

Jordan and Arab and Islamic worlds celebrate 'Eid Al Fitr

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Jordan, along with the Arab and Islamic worlds, celebrates the 'Eid Al Fitr feast today, marking the end of the holy fasting month of Ramadan during which the faithful observed fasting from daybreak to dusk and kept themselves away from materialistic pleasures. The 'Eid Al Fitr feast lasts for three days beginning today and all government departments and institutions will remain closed until Sunday morning. In a television and radio broadcast Wednesday evening, Chief Islamic Justice Mohammad Mheilan said Wednesday was the

last day of Ramadan and today was the first day of the 'Eid. In his statement, Sheikh Mheilan wished all faithful a happy 'Eid and expressed hope that the Arab and Islamic worlds would work towards unifying their ranks and opinion to regain the usurped homeland and holy places. The Islamic justice extended congratulations to His Majesty King Hussein and voiced hope that the efforts exerted by the King would contribute to unifying Arab ranks and achieving Arab unity. Sheikh Mheilan also greeted the Arab citizens living in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Happy 'Eid Al Fitr

The Jordan Times will not be published on Saturday, May 30, 1987, because of the 'Eid Al Fitr holiday. The next issue of the newspaper will appear on Sunday, May 31, 1987. The Jordan Times wishes its readers and advertisers a happy 'Eid Al Fitr feast and holidays.



Downtown Amman shopping areas bristle with activity on the eve of 'Eid Al Fitr (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Israeli soldiers open fire and kill Palestinian during Nablus protests

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A Palestinian was shot dead by Israeli soldiers outside his shop in the occupied West Bank city of Nablus late Tuesday night, Palestinian sources said Wednesday. Awad Ramez Taqout, 29, was hit in the head when troops opened fire on Palestinians who allegedly threw stones at them, the sources said. In the occupied Gaza Strip, a local Arab policeman was shot dead late Tuesday night. It was

presumed he was killed by Palestinians who suspected him of collaboration with Israel, police sources said. Most policemen in the West Bank and Gaza Strip are local Arab residents who handle local crime and traffic. The Israeli authorities generally do not involve them in investigating or preventing nationalist activity. The two killings took place hours before the start on Wednesday of "celebrations" in Israel marking "Jerusalem Day,"

the 20th anniversary of the what the Jewish state views as the "reunification" of the city in 1967 war. Festivities were held in west Jerusalem to mark the occasion but Arabs in the eastern sector of the city closed their shops in protest. A petrol bomb was thrown Tuesday night on an Israeli bus in Arab Jerusalem. The West Bank was also calm but an Israeli was injured in Jenin when a bottle was thrown at his

car. Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir called for increased Jewish settlement in the occupied territories. Mr. Shamir spoke at an Israeli settlement during a memorial service for an Israeli boy whose body was found last week. Settlement leaders met privately with Mr. Shamir for half an hour and asked him to build more Jewish settlements in the West Bank, the AP reported.

Israeli cabinet endorses panel reports on Pollard spying and hopes to end scandal

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli cabinet agreed on Wednesday to adopt the recommendations of a government-appointed panel on Israel's bungled espionage in Washington and ministers said they hoped the spy scandal would now be put to rest. Foreign Minister Peres, asked if he thought the scandal was now over, replied: "I think so." "I think I acted the way I should have. I have no reason to apologise and I have no regrets," he told reporters. The panel, headed by lawyer Joshua Rotenberg, decided the Israeli government bore collective responsibility for the affair in which former U.S. navy intelligence analyst Jonathan Pollard was caught passing top secret documents to Israel. "The cabinet decided to imple-

ment the report," cabinet secretary Eliakim Rubenstein told reporters after the meeting. The panel report includes a secret section on recommendations which cabinet ministers were not permitted to see before Wednesday's vote. Minister without portfolio Yitzhak Mordechai, a member of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's right-wing Likud bloc, voted against adopting the panel's recommendations. "I find it very difficult to accept responsibility for issues which were not known... and never discussed in the government, and now because some of our colleagues are pressed, we are obliged to take responsibility," he told reporters. "That is completely unfair." In Washington, the White

House declined comment on the Israeli reports. Asked at the daily White House news briefing for reaction to the reports, spokesman Martin Fitzwater said: "I don't have any comment on that." State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley, like the White House, declined to comment specifically on the issue. Oakley said Washington hoped the reports "will contribute to ensuring that espionage activities like Pollard's never occur again." But she added: "We have always said we are concerned about the treatment of the individuals involved in Pollard's espionage and that the government of Israel undertook to call such persons to account." Peres has no apologies or regrets, page 2

U.S. team continues talks with Baghdad officials

BAGHDAD (AP) — A joint Pentagon-State Department team investigating the Iraqi air strike on the USS Stark was locked in detailed talks with Iraqi Defence Ministry officials Wednesday working out a system to prevent further attacks in the Gulf. A Western diplomat said the team in Baghdad was getting "a lot of good Iraqi cooperation." It is still not known if the U.S. team, mainly army, navy and air force specialists, has questioned the Iraqi pilot who Baghdad says fired at the Stark by mistake, killing 37 American sailors. U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger had demanded the Americans be allowed to interrogate the pilot. But Western diplomats sought Wednesday to stress that allowing the American investigators to talk to the flier was no longer considered top priority. They would not elaborate. One source noted: "Seeing the pilot is not an end in itself. It is a means to an end. If it is thought that seeing the pilot is vital to the American investigation, I think it will be done." "It's not a question of the American saying 'show us the pilot or else.' It's not like that." He stressed: "There's no confrontation over this with the Iraqis. The team did not come here just to question the pilot. They want to find what went wrong and but they are also here to ensure that similar incidents do not happen again."

Possible link seen in Cairo attacks on Israeli and American diplomats

CAIRO (R) — Police hunting for three gunmen who shot and wounded two U.S. embassy officials are investigating the possibility of a link with the killers of two Israelis, a security official said Wednesday. He said a description of the attackers provided by the U.S. diplomats, who were slightly injured in the attack, indicated they might be the same men who shot dead two Israeli diplomats in separate attacks two years ago. A little-known group calling itself "Egypt's Revolution" said in a telephone call to an international news agency that it shot the Americans. The same group had said it carried out the attacks on the Israelis. The Americans, embassy

security chief Dennis Williams and his deputy John Huckle, were back at work on Wednesday although bearing marks of superficial wounds, a U.S. embassy spokesman said. They were driving to work on Tuesday when gunmen tailing them opened fire at close range. A third man in the car, administrative officer John Ford, was not hurt. Police quoted a witness as saying that one of the assailants was "a very ugly looking person," but gave no further details. Police set up road blocks on Cairo's approaches in a hunt for the car used by the gunmen, but there was no visible sign of increased security around Western embassies.

The attack was the second in Egypt this month. Gunmen shot and badly wounded former Interior Minister Hassan Abu Basha on May 5. Police sources said two Muslim fundamentalists, apparently members of a new clandestine group, had confessed to shooting Mr. Abu Basha after their fingerprints matched those taken at the scene. They said the new group said was an offshoot of the shadowy Jihad fundamentalist group which was responsible for assassinating President Anwar Sadat in 1981. Egyptians applying for entry visas to the United States shortly after Tuesday's shooting had their applications rejected. No reason was given.

Tanker hits mine in Gulf; U.S. reveals having escorted Kuwaiti ship to Bahrain

BAHRAIN (AP) — A Liberian-registered tanker hit a mine off Kuwait on Wednesday not far from where a Soviet tanker was damaged earlier this month by an explosive device, presumably a mine, shipping executives said. The 276,420-tonne Primrose had taken a load of Kuwaiti oil and started its trip southwards when it hit the mine 32 kilometres off Kuwait, the executives said. Kuwaiti divers inspected damage to the Primrose and found that it was holed in the hull 50 miles from Kuwait hours after leaving Ahmadi port on Tuesday evening with 260,000 tonnes of crude for Europe. The fully laden Soviet tanker Marshal Chuykov, under charter to Kuwait, sailed into a sea-mine near the same spot on May 15 after leaving Kuwait. The mine was thought to have drifted down from the Iran-Iraq war zone. It was the second of three Soviet tankers chartered by Kuwait to help ship its oil after Iran stepped up attacks on vessels serving Kuwait. Iran has launched nearly 20

such seaborne attacks this year, prompting Kuwait to seek re-registration of half its 22-tanker fleet to the U.S. flag. This would entitle them to protection from American warships in the Gulf. "We are in the final stages of the inspection process and the re-flagging and registration progresses," a White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Tuesday night. The first re-registered vessel could start sailing U.S. colours around the first week of June, he said. In another development following the May 17 Iraqi missile attack on the USS Stark, Pentagon officials said a U.S. navy warship escorted a Kuwaiti merchant vessel carrying arms to Bahrain earlier this week. The Kuwaiti-flag vessel was berthing at Bahrain's Mina Salman port waiting to unload a shipment of U.S.-made M-60 tanks, Howitzer batteries and ammunition. The Defence Department, in a statement released in response to press queries, said it decided to

offer escort protection to the vessel because "it is important that the United States remain a reliable supplier of defense items to friendly countries." On a case-by-case basis, given the situation in the (Arabian) Gulf, we will escort (such) shipments to friendly non-belligerent countries," the statement added. The disclosure came as a surprise because the Reagan administration previously had announced plans only to provide escort protection to Kuwaiti oil tankers that changed their registry to the U.S. flag. The administration had said nothing before Tuesday about using U.S. warships to keep an eye on foreign vessels if they were carrying American-made arms. U.S. President Ronald Reagan told foreign reporters at the White House that he sees no danger of the United States drifting into war with Iran but added: "We are not out to attack, but if fired upon we'll fire back." Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati on (Continued on page 3)

Car bomb wounds Hizbollah leader

BEIRUT (AP) — A car bomb seriously wounded a leader of the Iranian-backed Hizbollah (Party of God), when it exploded in his car in South Lebanon's provincial capital of Sidon on Wednesday, police said. A police statement said Dr. Ibrahim Atwi, who also is the manager of the government hospital in Sidon, lost both legs in the explosion around 11 a.m. It gave no further details. Local reporters in Sidon, 40 kilometres south of Beirut, said Dr. Atwi underwent surgery at the government hospital. They quoted an unnamed hospital spokesman as saying Dr. Atwi, in his early 50s, was in "a critical condition."

Contra aid figure says he was told he was working for Reagan

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — A retired air force colonel who managed a private air resupply network for the Nicaraguan rebels testified Wednesday that White House aide Oliver L. North "indicated that we were working for the president of the United States." Col. Robert C. Dutton, a former combat pilot in the Vietnam war, told Congress' Iran-contra hearings that his mission in running the supply operation for the contra guerrillas was similar to his work under President Jimmy Carter in carrying out an abortive attempt to rescue American hostages held in Iran. As the House of Representatives and Senate Investigative committees convened their fourth week of hearings on the Iran-contra affair, Col. Dutton said he worked directly under Lieutenant-Colonel North, then a member of the National Security Council staff, and retired air force Major-General Richard Secord. He said Gen. Secord had been deputy chief of the earlier covert operation to rescue hostages in Iran. Asked about his understanding of President Ronald Reagan's role in the contra resupply operation, Col. Dutton replied that Col. North was in charge of policy for the mission but "he indicated we were working for the president of the United States." Col. Dutton said that when he returned from Central America in September 1986, satisfied with

the outcome of his mission, Col. North had told him: "This has been a success. You'll never get a medal for this, but someday the president will shake your hand and thank you." Col. Dutton also testified about a photo album on rebel supply operations that Col. North asked him to prepare for the "top boss," who he believed was Mr. Reagan. The hearings were shown a loose-leaf album seized from Col. North's office by federal agents containing pictures of air drop zones and other aspects of the rebel supply operation, which was conducted at a time Congress had banned official U.S. aid. Col. Dutton described how, the day after he left the air force on May 1, 1986, he was hired by Gen. Secord to manage the operation. He said it was commanded by Gen. Secord, now in private business, and Col. North, and that he reported to both of them. Col. Dutton said he had undertaken special operations for President Carter in 1979 and 1980 aimed at rescuing 52 American hostages held in Iran. Col. North was fired by Mr. Reagan last November 25 when it was discovered that profits from secret U.S. arms sales to Iran had been diverted to the Nicaraguan rebels, known as contras. The president has denied any knowledge of the possibly illegal diversion.

Soviets reject reported arms deal and voice concern over Gulf war

MOSCOW (AP) — TASS on Wednesday rejected as a "fabrication" a U.S. newspaper's report of a multimillion-dollar Soviet arms sale to Iran, and said it was designed to distract attention from the Iran-contra affair. "One does not require too keen of an imagination to see that the point at issue is an act of disinformation hostile to the USSR," the official Soviet news agency said. In its Wednesday editions, the New York Times reported that the Soviet Union had quietly delivered more than \$18 million worth of advanced weaponry to Iran in December (See page 2). Commenting on the report, TASS said: "It goes without saying that the Soviet Union did not carry out the deliveries, and the New York Times report has been described by competent Soviet circles as an ill-intentioned fabrication." TASS said that by employing "scoops" of this kind, "some people would like to divert public attention from the resounding scandal over the unlawful shipments of American arms to Iran, involving many high-ranking figures from the U.S. administration."

Yuri Gremitskikh, a Foreign Ministry spokesman, also accused the United States of capitalising on the situation to stage a military buildup in the Gulf. He voiced concern over the recent turn in the war being waged along the Soviet Union's southern border, saying more than 300 foreign ships had come under fire or struck mines in the Gulf. "Such developments in an area in close proximity to the Soviet Union naturally cannot but be a source of serious concern to us," Gremitskikh said. On Tuesday, a Soviet official

Gorbachev arrives in East Berlin

EAST BERLIN (Agencies) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev arrived in East Berlin on Wednesday for a Warsaw Pact meeting expected to produce new calls for East-West agreements on nuclear and conventional arms. Mr. Gorbachev and East German communist leader Erich Honecker walked together in bright sunshine along a red carpet after exchanging greetings at East Berlin's Schoenefeld airport. "It's no good asking questions. Wait until tomorrow," Mr. Gorbachev called out in reply to questions by reporters about the pact meeting. Arriving from Bucharest, he was joined at the airport by such Soviet colleagues as Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov, President Andrei Gromyko, Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and Defence Minister Sergei Sokolov. Crowds waved flags and chanted "Ceausescu — Gorbachev" as the Soviet leader and President Nicolae Ceausescu visited Bucharest polytechnic and a department store.

China makes 2nd delivery of Silkworm missiles to Iran

WASHINGTON (AP) — China has shipped a second delivery of Silkworm antiship missiles to Iran, a U.S. official has said.

The missiles were delivered about two weeks ago, adding to an arsenal provided by China earlier in the year, and could enhance Iran's ability to attack ships moving through the Strait of Hormuz, the official said.

"The missiles add a dangerous dimension to shipping in the Gulf," said the official, who demanded anonymity.

He said Iran had prepared sites for the weapons, but had not deployed either batch of Silkworms.

Secretary of State George Shultz asked the Chinese on a trip to Peking in March to halt

weapons shipments to Iran. He reiterated the appeal to a visiting Chinese military delegation here last week.

To keep oil flowing, the United States is preparing to put its flag on 11 Kuwaiti tankers after they are inspected by the coast guard. The process probably will be completed early next month, officials said.

In the meantime, President Ronald Reagan's administration is weighing at least three options to protect them.

Officials said these included stepping up U.S. naval forces in the Arabian Sea, asking Britain,

France and other allies to provide air cover for the Gulf and requesting landing rights for U.S. fighter planes in an unidentified Gulf country.

Although it was an Iraqi jet that fired two missiles last week at an American frigate, killing 37 sailors, U.S. strategy in protecting Gulf oil shipments is aimed at Iran.

So far this year, Iran has launched 20 attacks on ships in the Gulf, officials say. At least 16 had a connection with Kuwait.

Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy publicly assured Tehran last week that protecting the tankers was not intended as a U.S. provocation. However, he also cautioned Iran that an attack on U.S. naval forces in the Gulf could expand fighting in the area.

Iran denies buying arms from Moscow

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — An official Iranian source on Wednesday denied a U.S. press report that the Soviet Union delivered advanced weapons to Iran in December.

The source, who did not wish to be identified further, said Iran had on several occasions in the past purchased Soviet-made weapons, including anti-aircraft missiles, through other channels, including North Korea.

Although the source said the Soviet Union may well have wanted these weapons to reach Iran, the source said none of the deliveries were made at the behest of the Soviet Union.

The New York Times, quoting records of a French arms dealer, reported Wednesday that the Soviet Union delivered more than \$18 million worth of advanced weapons to Iran in December.

"It is categorically denied that there was a direct delivery," said the source, reached by telephone from Nicosia. "Indirectly, this has taken place on several occasions."

Iran's official news media did not mention the New York Times story, nor did they comment on it.

The Times said the Soviet shipment included Sam-7 anti-aircraft missiles and launchers that were taken from a Warsaw Pact arsenal in Poland.

It said that to carry out the deal, DC-9s were chartered in Israel and the label on the cargo showed that it was destined for North Korea.

Iranian leaders have said in the past that they would purchase arms from the international market and any arms dealers — except Israeli — to fight Iraq.

The Times report follows the disclosure of secret U.S. arms shipment to Iran while the United States had banned any such supplies to the fundamentalist government.

A significant portion of the U.S. arms were shipped by Israel. The French dealer, Jean-Louis Gantzer, told the Times he was a broker for a German arms merchant in the deal.

Peres has no apologies, regrets over Pollard scandal

TEL AVIV (R) — Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Wednesday he had no apologies or regrets for Israel's bungled espionage operation in Washington after a parliamentary probe laid much of the blame for the spy scandal on the Labour leader.

"I think I acted the way I should have. I have no reason to apologise and I have no regrets," Mr. Peres said in an interview on Armed Forces Radio.

The Knesset (parliament) Intelligence Subcommittee, led by former Foreign Minister Abba Eban, said Tuesday night that Mr. Peres deserved the brunt of the criticism because he was the "first among equals" as prime minister between 1984 and 1985.

When U.S. navy intelligence analyst Jonathan Pollard passed top-secret American documents to Israel.

But it also said Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and former defence chief Moshe Arens bore responsibility for the scandal which deeply damaged Israel's relations with its closest ally.

A separate government-appointed panel, chaired by Tel Aviv lawyer Joshua Rothenberg,

said Tuesday the government bore collective responsibility for the affair.

Both inquiries said none of the country's leaders had been aware that Pollard was spying for Israel. They said the former intelligence analyst had been recruited and controlled by a now-disbanded Defence Ministry unit headed by spy-master Rafi Eitan.

The fact that the political echelon did not know ... does not solve the problem of national and ministerial responsibility stemming from the involvement of people who are under the authority of political leaders," the Eban report said.

Neither committee recommended any action against Israeli leaders, and both Eban and Rothenberg said it was up to the public and parliament to decide what should be done.

When asked if he thought Israel's leaders should be judged by the public over the scandal, Mr. Peres replied: "If there is a crime, I do not see any crime here."

Pollard, a 32-year-old American Jew, was sentenced on March 4 by a Washington court to life imprisonment for espionage.

His wife Anne Henderson-Pollard received a five-year term as an accomplice.

Washington has yet to react to the findings of the Israeli inquiries, but state radio quoted American sources as saying they were disappointed at the outcome of the probes.

"I do not think we have to satisfy the Americans. I think we have to satisfy the truth," Mr. Peres said.

The Eban report singled out Rabin and his predecessor, Moshe Arens, for failing to oversee Eitan's unit, known as Lekem. It said Shamir was also at fault as prime minister when Pollard was recruited.

The Pollard spy affair which has damaged relations between Israel and Washington is the latest in a series of scandals to plague the shaky national unity government in the past year.

Other major scandals which have embarrassed the government headed by Shamir of the right-wing Likud and Labour's Peres are:

— In January 1986, Israeli leaders acknowledged Israel shipped American arms to Iran, but deny allegations that the Jew-

ish state helped transfer proceeds from the sales to Nicaraguan contra rebels. Contradictions between the American and Israeli versions of events remain to be explained.

— The Vanunu spy scandal — October 1986: Israel acknowledges it abducted Mordechai Vanunu after the Israeli nuclear technician passed atomic secrets to a British newspaper. Vanunu is in jail awaiting trial on espionage charges.

— Shin Bet scandal — July 1986: Israel's Shin Bet security service is implicated in the 1984 killing of two captured Palestinian commandos and a subsequent cover-up of how they died. President Chaim Herzog pardons 11 Shin Bet agents and an inquiry later clears Israeli leaders of responsibility.

— Shin Bet scandal two — May 1987: Israel's supreme court upholds the appeal of Itzak Nafsu, a jailed Muslim army officer who said Shin Bet interrogators used physical and mental pressure to force him to confess to false charges of treason and espionage. He was freed this week after serving seven years of an 18-year sentence.

U.S. jury indicts businessman of planning military shipment to Syria

WASHINGTON (AP) — A businessman accused of conspiring to illegally ship sophisticated air navigation tracking systems to Syria told undercover agents he was working with top Syrian officials, according to an indictment.

Kevin P. Gilday, 39, the president of a Philadelphia export-import company, told undercover U.S. customs agents that the Irish Republican Army (IRA) and the Syrian government were involved in his efforts to ship sensitive U.S. military equipment to Middle East and Soviet Bloc countries, according to the indictment returned by a grand jury.

A grand jury is a citizens panel that weighs evidence presented to it and recommends charges to be prosecuted, if any.

Gilday, president of Gilday Associates, and his business partner, Rosemary Loughery, were named in the 10-count indictment charging they conspired to violate the Arms Export Control Act.

Gilday and Ms. Loughery were arrested last fall when a warrant also was issued for the arrest of Thomas Henry O'Brien, 45, of Northern Ireland. O'Brien was not named in the indictment.

The indictment charges that the two, "employing false statements, fraud and deceit," tried to

disguise the true destination of air navigation radio beacons they proposed to sell to Syria.

Syria is an illegal destination for U.S. arms and military equipment under the Arms Export Control Act.

The indictment details extensive contacts over eight months last year between Gilday, Loughery and two U.S. customs agents who posed as arms dealers.

They discussed the sale of high-technology equipment to Syria, Libya, the Irish Republican Army and Soviet Bloc nations at various meetings during the eight-month period, the indictment charges. It says the discussions included the sale of C-130H planes to Libya.

Gilday and Loughery sought advice from the undercover agents about obtaining false certificates from the customs service to ship the radio beacons to Pakistan, Brazil, Nigeria and Egypt, the indictment said. The equipment then would be shipped to Syria.

During a Nov. 11, 1986, meeting at a Washington restaurant, Gilday told the agents about "the role of the Irish Republican Army and the Syrian government, specifically very high Sy-

rian officials, had in the trans-shipment process," the indictment says.

At a bail hearing last fall, Donald Bludworth, one of the undercover customs agents, quoted Gilday as saying he had a contact at the Syrian embassy who was assisting in the transactions.

Bludworth testified that Gilday told him he contacted Souha Jamili, formerly the embassy's third secretary, as part of his efforts to ship the navigation equipment to Syria.

Ms. Jamili was to be assigned to her country's Moscow embassy, Bludworth testified.

Officials of the Syrian embassy could not be reached late Tuesday for comment on the case.

In addition to conspiracy, the indictment also charges Gilday and Loughery with mail fraud, wire fraud and aiding and abetting.

Gilday also allegedly told the undercover agents that O'Brien wanted to buy arms for a paramilitary group in Northern Ireland.

He also allegedly identified Asif Mahmoud, an associate based in London, as someone who "was powerful in the Middle East and the East Bloc."

100,000 expatriates to leave Oman by the end of 1987

MUSCAT (R) — Oman has shed a third of its expatriate workers in 18 months and the exodus will continue, a top government adviser said in remarks published Wednesday.

Sherif Lotfi, adviser to Sultan Qaboos bin Said, told the government-owned English-language Oman Daily Observer that up to 100,000 expatriates will have left by the end of this year.

"Fifty thousand foreign workers left Oman last year and the same number will probably leave this year," Mr. Lotfi said. He is also secretary general of Oman's Development Council.

The departure of expatriate labour reflects the slide in Oman's economy following the drop in world oil prices, resulting in deep public spending cuts.

Workers are going home as shops, offices and apartment blocks empty, rents plunge and inflation approaches 20 per cent.

France warns S. Pacific nations against Libya

PARIS (R) — Overseas Territories Minister Bernard Pons, who returned last week from New Caledonia, has warned against Libyan activity in the South Pacific.

"There is Libyan activity (in the South Pacific) and the countries in the region should be concerned about it," Mr. Pons told Radio France International in an interview.

Mr. Pons said Libya had sent representatives to the island of Vanuatu and that a Melanesian from New Caledonia had spent three months in Libya.

"It is not the presence of France that should be accused of destabilisation" in the area, added Mr. Pons.

U.S. rejects any bid for early release of Hamadei

NEW YORK (R) — The United States has told West Germany it would not agree to any early release for a Lebanese suspected in the hijacking of a TWA airliner, the New York Times said Wednesday.

The newspaper, quoting Reagan administration sources, said U.S. Ambassador to West Germany Richard Burt Tuesday delivered a message to Bonn saying any deal to release the suspect, Mohammad Ali Hamadei, in exchange for two German businessmen held hostage in Lebanon would be unacceptable.

The United States has said it wants to bring Hamadei to trial in connection with the 1985 hijacking of a TWA jet to Lebanon in which a navy diver was slain.

The newspaper quoted an administration official as saying the United States still wants to extradite Hamadei.

Hamadei was arrested at the Frankfurt airport on Jan. 15 after explosives were discovered in his luggage.

Earlier, the Washington Post reported that West Germany was negotiating to release Hamadei and his brother, also in custody, after brief jail sentences in exchange for the businessmen.

The White House said Tuesday a U.S. extradition request for Hamadei was still pending.

The State Department said it still believed West Germany would live up to its legal obligations in the case. Washington sent its extradition request to Bonn four months ago.

Asked at his daily news briefing about the status of the U.S. request for Hamadei's extradition, White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said: "It is active and pending ... we are still pressing for his extradition to this country."

"The administration has made clear its desire to have Mohammed Hamadei vigorously prosecuted on all of the charges that he faces," State Department spokesman Charles Redman told reporters.

TV & RADIO		WHAT'S GOING ON		FOR THE TRAVELLER		USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.	
JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-19 PROGRAMME ONE 14:00 Koran 14:20 Programme Review 14:30 Cartoons 15:00 Children's programmes 16:10 Local series 17:00 Children's programmes 17:15 Foreign film 18:40 Arabic series 19:40 Programme review and varieties 20:00 News in Arabic 20:20 Arabic series 21:15 Varieties 23:00 News summary in Arabic 23:10 Arabic play PROGRAMME TWO 16:20 Joe et la sorcière (cartoon) 17:20 Champs Elysees — 1st Part 19:00 News in French 19:15 Champs Elysees — 2nd Part 19:30 News in Hebrew 19:45 Sport Magazine 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 Me and My Girl (Comedy) 21:10 The Challenge 22:00 News in English 22:20 Feature film: "Golden Gate, Munchen" — David Jansen, Susanah York RADIO JORDAN 855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 95.0 KHz, SW Tel: 774111-19 07:00 Light Music 07:30 Newsweek 08:00 Morning Show 10:00 News Summary 10:05 Morning Show Cont. 11:00 Country Music 11:30 Hissive: The story of Motown 12:00 News Summary 12:05 Readings 13:00 News Summary 13:05 Pop Session 14:00 News Bulletin 14:10 Instrumentals 14:30 30-minute Theatre 15:00 Concert Hour 16:00 News Summary 16:05 Instrumentals 16:30 Old Favourites 16:30 Discovering Music 17:00 Pop Session 18:00 News Summary 18:05 Special Feature 18:30 Music 19:00 Newsweek 19:30 Date with a Star 20:00 Evening Show 21:00 News Summary		CULTURAL CENTRES Royal Cultural Centre .. 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Open all week 9:00 a.m. — 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. — 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday. Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. — 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760. Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabel Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays. Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Mount Zabal, Jabel Lureidbeh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. — 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. — 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630126. Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab		QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08) 53200-5, where it should always be verified. ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1) 09:30 Dhahran (RJ) 10:00 Agaba (RJ) 10:20 Cairo (RJ) 10:25 Jeddah (RJ) 11:00 Doha, Abu Dhabi (RJ) 11:05 Doha, Bahrain (RJ) 11:45 Kuwait (RJ) 17:30 Cairo, Agaba (RJ) 18:35 New York, Vienna (RJ) 18:55 London (RJ) 19:15 Athens (RJ) 19:50 Larissa (RJ) 19:55 Bucharest (RJ) 20:00 Rome (RJ) 20:00 Baghdad (RJ) OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2) 10:15 Beirut (ME) 12:45 Kuwait (LN) 13:00 Athens (AF) 13:40 Doha, Bahrain (GF) 14:35 Kuwait (KU) 15:30 Istanbul, Ankara (TK) 16:00 Riyadh (SV) 17:30 Athens (AF) 19:10 Frankfurt (LH) 19:20 Amsterdam, Istanbul (KL) 20:00 Zurich, Larissa (SR) DEPARTURES ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1) 07:45 Agaba (RJ) 10:30 Paphos, Bucharest (RJ) 11:05 Rome (RJ) 12:30 Cairo (RJ) 13:00 Larissa (RJ) 13:04 Paris, London (RJ) 13:15 Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ) 13:30 Athens (RJ) 20:30 Kuwait (RJ) 21:00 Abu Dhabi (RJ) 21:30 Bahrain, Doha (RJ) 22:00 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ) 22:00 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ) 22:15 Cairo (RJ) 23:00 Dubai, Muscat (RJ) 23:00 Bangkok (RJ) OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2) 06:20 Frankfurt (LH) 06:40 Cairo, London (BA) 07:00 Damascus, Paris (AF) 11:10 Beirut (ME) 14:00 Tripoli (LN) 14:05 Cairo (MS) 15:00 Bahrain, Doha (GF) 15:35 Kuwait (KU) 16:20 Ankara, Istanbul (TK) 17:40 Riyadh (SV) 18:30 Baghdad (IA) 20:00 Sana'a (LH) PRAYER TIMES 03:54 Fajr 05:23 Sunrise 16:13 Dhuhr 19:37 Asr 21:11 Maghreb 21:11 Isha MONEY EXCHANGE Wednesday rates Local selling rates in Jds Belgian franc 89/9 91/2 Dutch guilder 165/4 167/4 French franc 55/7 56/5 Italian lira 25/8 26/1 Japanese yen (for 100) 234/3 238/5 Swedish crown 53/3 53/9 Swiss franc 226/8 229/8 U.K. sterling pound 532/4 560/4 U.S. dollar 334/4 37/5 W. German mark 186/2 188/8 WEATHER Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology. Another increase in temperature is expected with variable moderate winds. In Agaba winds will be northerly moderate and calm sea. Amman Min./max. temp. 15/30 Agaba 20/36 Desert 14/33 Jordan Valley 16/34 Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 29, Agaba 36. Humidity readings: Amman 20 per cent, Agaba 16 per cent.		EMERGENCIES Amman governorate 891228 Amman Civil Defence 198, 199 Civil Defence Irbid 271293, 273311 Civil Defence Qadisia 770733 Civil Defence Deir Alla 67006 Ambulance 193, 773111 Amman downtown fire brigade 198 First aid 630341 Blood Bank 770303 Civil Defence rescue 661111 Fire headquarters 62090-3 Police rescue 192, 621111, 637777 Police headquarters 639141 Traffic police 8963901 Electric Power Co. 636814, 624081 Municipal water complaints 771258 Queen Alia Int. Airport (08) 5333060 HOSPITALS Husseini Medical Centre 81381332 Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 6442816 Akhil Maternity, J. 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Apple (Lebanese & Turkish) 300/240 Apple (French) 330/300 Banana 320/280 Banana (Mukammal) 270/220 Beans (local) 260/200 Broad beans 80/60 Cabbage 140/100 Carrot (yellow) 160/100 Cauliflower 120/80 Cucumbers 150/100 Eggplant (large) 150/100 Eggplant (small) 150/100 Garlic (green) 220/180 Garlic (dry) 330/300 Lemon 150/100 Mallow 220/180 Mango 230/180 Onion (dry) 110/80 Onion (green) 130/90 Orange (local) 160/120 Peas 160/120 Pepper (hot) 170/100 Pepper (sweet) 170/100 Potato 160/100 Radish 120/80 Tomatoes 140/100 Turnip 100/70 Vine leaves 300/240 Watermelon 160/160 NIGHT DUTY AMMAN: Dr. Othman Mustafa 774024 Dr. Zaim Zaghoul 638391 Dr. Ramzi Mezzawi 894788 Dr. Walid Yacoub 794811 Al Salam Pharmacy 636730 Neirokhi Pharmacy 723272 Firas Pharmacy 661912 Himmawi pharmacy 843766 Khalaf pharmacy 778653 Al Fardous pharmacy 787336 TAXIS: Al Waha taxi 641833 Khalidoun taxi 664886 Bassam taxi 811877 Abhi taxi 621127 Hayam taxi 817411 Balasamah taxi 845120 Bahrain taxi 772434 Jemawi taxi 896743 IBRD: Dr. Subhi Hamdan 240194 Hazeemeh pharmacy (—) Al Shamsa pharmacy (—) ZARQA: Dr. Ghassan Farah 986871 Al Shamsa pharmacy (—)	

Gemayel sends King cable for Independence Day

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein has received a cable of good wishes from Lebanese President Amin Gemayel on Jordan's Independence Day which fell on May 25.

In his cable, the president voiced his wishes for continued health and happiness for the King and further prosperity for the Jordanian people.

King Hussein also received cables on the occasion from the presidents of Senegal and Malawi.

UNESCO to hold photo show for year of shelter

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Amman-based regional office of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) is holding an arts exhibition in Amman on June 3.

The exhibition is part of the activities for International Year of Shelter for the Homeless (IYSH), which the U.N. General Assembly designated the year 1987.

A total of 48 photographs and 47 slides taken by photographers and journalists from 41 nations in the course of an international photo-competition organised by UNESCO in 1985 will be put on display, according to a UNESCO spokesman.

He said that the exhibition sheds light on the plight of homeless people, and those who are living in despicable conditions without sanitation, drinking water or proper living environment.

A press release issued by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements said that one quarter of the world's population does not have adequate housing. One hundred million are actually homeless, eating and sleeping in public streets.

In order to draw attention to these issues, the United Nations General Assembly has also designated the first Monday of October each year as World Habitat Day.

GUVS to give computers to schools on both banks

AMMAN (Petra) — The General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) in Jordan will distribute 75 computers to charitable societies on the two banks of the Kingdom to be used for training at societies' schools, according to a GUVS announcement in Amman.

It said that 45 computers will be distributed in the East Bank and the rest in the West Bank during this year.

The announcement, following a GUVS Executive Committee meeting held under the chairmanship of Dr. Abdullah Al Khatib, also gave particulars about the distribution of financial assistance to different charitable societies in the Kingdom to enable them to purchase furniture and spend on essential projects.

The announcement said a total of JD 25,000 will be given to 50 nursery schools in Amman, Irbid, Balqa, and Zarqa governorates and JD 15,000 to 30 nurseries in the West Bank's governorates of Jerusalem, Nablus and Hebron.

A special committee has been formed to supervise the distribution of these funds, according to the announcement.

GUVS will pay the sum of JD 500 annually to finance the cost of running one of the homes cared for by the SOS children's village in Amman, according to the announcement. GUVS will take part in a conference sponsored by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) due to be held in Paris in December, and a conference on voluntary work to be held in the American city of Chicago in October 1987.

Commenting on the allocations for charitable societies in the West Bank, Dr. Khatib said that this step enables these societies to take charge of social services in view of the absence of a national central authority.

Ministry to register pilgrims

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs is making arrangements for registering pilgrims to Mecca this year.

An announcement by the ministry said that the registration of pilgrims will start after the Eid Al Fitr holiday which ends on Saturday evening.

It also said that it awarded a tender to a consortium of 10 Jordanian companies to take charge of transporting the pilgrims to and from the holy places in Saudi Arabia, and also putting them up in homes or tents during their performance of religious rites.



HUSTLE AND BUSTLE: Downtown Amman bustles with people shopping in preparation for the Eid Al Fitr holiday. The streets were filled with buyers and sellers in a rush to stock up on provisions for the breaking of the fast today. (Photos by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Prince Hassan to discuss development plan in London

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Light will be shed on Jordan's 1986-1990 five-year national development plan at a conference, opening in London on Tuesday.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who will be the guest of honour at the conference, is scheduled to deliver a major address outlining in detail the different schemes included in the five-year plan and its objectives.

Last November His Majesty King Hussein opened a three-day international conference in Amman to highlight this five-year plan, which he described as a "further step in the country's modernisation effort." He said that programmes had been developed to suit the Jordanian people's needs in services, housing, health, education and other areas.

The conference in London has been organised by the Union of British Industries. Its meetings will be chaired by Mr. David Douglas Hume who also chairs the British Commission on Trade with the Middle East, according to Dr. Hisham Al Khatib Minister of energy and mineral resources.

Jordan's development conference

Prince Hassan chaired Jordan development conference which was held here in November. He said then that Jordan looked forward with optimism to the coming decade and that the government hoped for cooperation and participation of all Jordanians in carrying out investment projects in the Kingdom.

The development conference brought together Arab and foreign participants: Prince Hassan



welcomed foreign investors to invest in Jordan which he said provides a climate conducive to successful business ventures.

According to Dr. Khatib, an exhibition of Jordanian industrial products and items featuring the country's development in all other fields will be held during the conference in London which will be attended by the Jordanian ministers of industry, planning, energy and mineral resources, the governor of the Central Bank of Jordan and businessmen. Minister of Industry and Trade Rajai Muasher was Wednesday due to leave for London to take part in the conference.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Phosphate production up

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's production of phosphate last March reached 559,004 tonnes, up from 524,009 tonnes produced in March 1986, according to a statistical bulletin issued by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ). The bulletin added that phosphate production during February this year was 445,006 tonnes, while in March it reached 559,004 tonnes which is an increase of 113,800 tonnes in one month.

Aviation team returns from Syria

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) delegation returned from Syria on Tuesday after a three-day visit during which they had talks with Syrian officials on air transport between the two countries and means of promoting cooperation in this field, according to a report carried Wednesday by the local daily Sawt Al Shaab. The two sides, the report added, agreed that the two national airlines of the countries hold a meeting to draw up a programme for technical and commercial cooperation between them.

Meat distribution stopped until Monday

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Supply has announced that the distribution of meat will be suspended as of today until Monday, June 1, due to the Eid Al Fitr holiday. Ministry sources added the meat distribution will be resumed on Monday when two airplanes loaded with lamb and beef will arrive in the country. Four airplanes loaded with lamb and beef arrived here on Tuesday and were distributed to the butcheries.

Jordan takes part in int'l social security conference

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan is taking part in the 10th conference for the protection of labourers against hazards and diseases currently being held in Stockholm between May 24-29.

The conference is sponsored by the International Social Security Association (ISSA) in cooperation with the International Labour Office and the Swedish Social Security Corporation.

Among the major topics which are on the conference agenda are the future of health insurance for labourers and the enforcement of better terms in social security legislation.

Participants will also discuss occupational safety in the industrial and mining fields over the coming years, and issues related to social security in developing countries.

Some 2000 experts from 80 countries are taking part in the conference which is held once in three years.

Polluted lake poses health hazard

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Water, greenery, and a pretty face — these three have been cited by Arabs since the ancient times as the perfect environment for man on earth. But today, one of the three, water, accumulated in an artificial lake east of the Pepsi-Cola plant on the Amman-Zarka highway, resembles none of pleasant aspects of life.

Residents living in the vicinity appear to have accepted the possible dangers to their health. Some, however, hope that action will be taken to clean up the polluted lake, a resident in an interview with the Jordan Times said.

According to the Pepsi plant director, Issam Demashkiah, several solutions, including turning the site into a public park, have been studied and assessed since the lake was created ten years ago.

"We have expressed our readiness to contribute to any feasible project at the site despite the fact that the plant is not responsible for the polluted water," Mr. Demashkiah told the Jordan Times.

He said that the lake, named after the Pepsi plant, was first

formed by Al Ruseifa mines of the Jordan Phosphates Mines Company (JPMC) to sluice the rock phosphates.

"The JPMC's defunct mines in Ruseifa needed the lake's water for phosphates processing," Mr. Demashkiah said. Subsequently, other wastewater, including the sewage from Shnellor refugee camp, poured into the lake, which covers over 130-dunum area of land, he added.

The wastewater from the Pepsi plant is treated and therefore does not pollute the lake, the plant director said. The treated water can be used for irrigation, he asserted.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Ruseifa Mayor Musleh Tarawneh said his municipality has plans to turn the area surrounding the lake into an agricultural project after diverting the sewage flow from the camp and cleaning out the pollution and dirt.

Mr. Tarawneh said that a sewerage project, currently under construction at Shnellor refugee camp, should absorb the polluted water, which is being dumped into the lake. The project is expected to be completed within the next two months. Once the

sewage flowing from Shnellor camp has been diverted from its course elsewhere, water in the lake will be useful for irrigation in the area, he added.

Mr. Tarawneh said that his municipality, in cooperation with the Housing Corporation and the Urban Development Department (UDD), were exploring the possibility of planting a 5,000 dunum-area surrounding the lake as the first stage towards setting up a national public park on the site. Moreover, the water reserved could also be dredged to irrigate plants in the Ruseifa national park. The plantation of the area is expected to begin two years from now, he said.

On the other hand, Mr. Tarawneh said that completely drying the lake would be a difficult task since it constitutes a depository for streams formed by rainwater.

After the cleaning operation, clean water will remain in the lake since digging canals to drain the water have not proven feasible. In addition, the water draining from the lake could pose a danger to the residential areas in Zarka and Ruseifa underlined Mr. Tarawneh. He added that the deserted JPMC mines could also be destroyed should the lake's water flood.

A Civil Defence Department (CDD) officer underlined that the solution to drain the lake was put forward by the city's General Safety Committee but was later abandoned because it was not feasible.

Colonel Theib Ma'ani, director of CDD's operations, told the Jordan Times that turning the site into a public park was the only feasible and safe way to overcome the hazards resulting from the polluted lake.

"Not only is the lake filthy. It was also the site of a number of incidents, such as drowning and other hazards," Col. Ma'ani underlined.

At one time the lake used to serve as the site for dumping the bodies of murdered people and illegitimate babies, the colonel added. "In one murder case, we had to send divers down into the lake to search for the head of a girl who had been killed and beheaded by her brother for her alleged 'immoral behaviour'." Col. Ma'ani said.

According to the Ruseifa mayor, the municipality appointed a guard, installed post-lamps and fenced the area in 1983. Today, only part of the lake is fenced.

U.S. reveals having escorted Kuwaiti ship to Bahrain

(Continued from page 1)

Wednesday warned that if the superpowers act against Iran, "we will make Kuwait sorry for inviting the superpowers" and made the superpowers "sorry for aggression in the Gulf."

In his remarks, carried by the official Islamic Republic News Agency, he referred to the attack on the Stark and the subsequent investigation as "starkgate."

Mr. Reagan also accused the Iranian government of supporting terrorism but said he thought Iran would try to avoid open conflict with the United States.

"I don't think that they (Iran) would like to take on the United

States in addition to Iraq," Mr. Reagan told a group of six journalists from Britain, Canada, France, West Germany, Italy and Japan at an interview at the White House.

"There is no question but that the Iranian government does support terrorism," Mr. Reagan said.

Referring to the United States' commitment to maintain trade and open waters in the Gulf, Mr. Reagan said:

"I don't see that as bringing on a war. As a matter of fact, we are doing everything we can to try and bring about an end to the war that we have."

Asked whether he had ever

considered stepping down over the Iran-contra scandal, currently being investigated by the U.S. Congress, Mr. Reagan said there was no truth in allegations that he had known money was being channelled to Nicaragua's right-wing rebels.

"So, frankly, I sleep very well at night," he said. "And I know the truth will come out. I don't feel that I'm faced with any crisis and, no, I never considered resigning."

U.S. Senate concern about a military clash with Iran in the Gulf rose on Wednesday after the Defence Department's announcement.

"I think it's only a matter of time until the Iranians do (attack a U.S. navy ship)," Senator Jim Sasser said in a television interview. "... I don't know what the ultimate consequences would be."

Sen. John Glenn said in a separate television interview: "We're more likely to be in combat in the (Arabian) Gulf now than we were before."

Both senators said the danger of a U.S.-Iranian clash would particularly be increased by the plan for Kuwaiti tankers to sail into the Iran-Iraq war zone under American flags for U.S. protection.

Eerie tomb conceals identity of architects

Text and Photographs
By Josephine Zanarri
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The strange tomb of Wadi Seer is another of Jordan's forgotten architectural and historical oddities. The tomb, a primitive cave, is vastly dwarfed by the grandeur of the Nabataean monuments of Petra. Yet it remains a fascinating place, eerily locked away in the rugged cliff face, the only physical remnant of a tribe long-gone from the beautiful valley.

The tomb is visible from the small bridge crossing the swift flowing brook which courses on down the cool fertile valley. The steep climb to the desolate site is well rewarded as the tomb is one of the strangest places in Jordan as many hundreds of people must have been cremated and buried there.

The cavern size, compared to any of the Petra monuments, is tiny, being carved only some thirteen metres into the hillside. It consists of two chambers divided by the natural rock. Entry to either chamber from within, is via door ways at either the back or the front of the tomb. The compactness of the two chambers was successfully overcome by a particularly cunning engineering feat as three levels in the cave have been catered for, by the carving of floor supports on two different levels of the cavern wall. Either boards crossed from side to side giving access to upper levels or nimble priests or those interring ashes, shinned around on the stone ledges. While the total impact of the tomb is of harsh austerity, it is not without its decorative elements, all of which are functional.

Rectangular windows

The exterior facades are ingeniously decorated with a series of four rectangular windows. The lower two, placed either side of the door are situated around three to four metres from ground level — a narrow ledge cleared outside the front of the cave. The



The interior view of the Wadi Seer tomb

lowest windows are carved into an intricate pattern of three tiny arches for a series of five rows downwards. The main entry point could only be reached by ladder and would certainly only permit entry to those who were welcome or at least knew its secrets. The three higher windows are less ornately carved and more open, one could have been a door from the third level of the cavern or the passage of time may simply have eroded it. A lower door, at ground level was hastily added at a later date, probably by local farmers who used the cave as a storage place. The rough work-

manship is in striking contrast to the meticulous stone masonry of the original builders. A crude metal support has been added to the hollowed out door way to minimise further crumbling.

The interior facades are extraordinary. A perfect case of form following function: Throughout every wall of the cave triangles of roughly eight by eight inches have been chiseled some three inches into every available facade, giving the whole place a surreal overtone of a giant, but not quite accurate, beehive.

It is weirdly busy in its own

statically stone way. Each of the triangles was the resting place for the charred remains of a human body. Both caverns are blackened by centuries-old soot which clings tenaciously to every rock and crack, indicating the extraordinary number of bodies which must have been cremated in the eerie tomb.

Keeping the dead 'safe'

But who were the masons behind this strange place? Their artistry was far from Nabataean standard yet shares some common features. Their burial habits, however, share nothing with those of Petra, where the dead were safely interred on family precincts. Does the majestic cliff site of the tomb indicate anything of these long ago people? Certainly security appears one of their most pressing concerns. The tomb is rather inaccessible, the ledge in front of it is insufficient to allow a significant number of people to gather, the door way is high and only the prepared would be able to enter the tomb, and the windows preclude any unwanted intrusions. Whoever they were, they definitely made the resting place of their dead safe, indeed the total signal of the tomb is one of defensiveness.

There are no inscriptions on the caves. However, further down the valley near Iraq Al Emir lie the Tobiad caves, yet the two share little more in common than that they are man-made caverns. The tomb has its very specific function, the Iraq Al Emir caves being little more than hastily built storage bins.

The tribes who constructed the tomb were obviously Romanised, as since Etruscan times the common form of burial had been in urns, statues and so on, following cremation. Such practices were uncommon in the Near East where since Paleolithic times the dead had been buried, sometimes in mass cemeteries, sometimes even under the flooring of the family home. Who built the tomb? Probably we never will know.

Jordan Times
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True spirit of Eid

TODAY Jordan, along with the Arab and Islamic worlds, celebrates the Eid Al Fitr Feast. This Eid, as any other Eid in Islam, is an occasion for soul searching and positive thinking. In fact throughout the Ramadan month, Muslims are instructed to meditate about spiritual matters and observe abstinence from material concerns. That we, Muslims, indulge ourselves in everything mundane and material during the Holy Month of Ramadan and rejoice in the Feast of Al Fitr in "an incomplete" manner is no true reflection of these holy occasions. Any deviation from the true spirit of such holy days mars the holidays and paints them with colours which are alien to Islam.

Breaking of the one-month long fast is an occasion to rekindle our spiritual ties with the Almighty God and strengthen our compassion for our fellow men and women, especially the less fortunate among them. Depriving our bodies of food and water and other human pleasures during the month of Ramadan should remind us of our duties and obligations towards the needy, especially the hungry and thirsty among us; not only in the literal sense, but also in the figurative sense. It goes without saying that the dimensions and scope of such attitudes and perspectives are not confined to the individual level, but include the collective level.

Inter-Arab and inter-Islamic relations come within the purview of this true spirit and meaning of Eid Al Fitr which we enjoy today. Nothing could enhance the message of these happy days and fulfil their spiritual objectives more than to see the Arab and Islamic countries enjoying good brotherly relations devoid of ill feeling and animosity. We, therefore, pray to the Almighty God to help us help ourselves and attain the degree of fraternity and good will which is asked of us by the Holy Book Al Quran. We shall congratulate ourselves on the occasion of the feast only to the extent that we succeed in fulfilling the spiritual message of the occasion. There are signs, albeit faint ones, that we now realise what we should do and acknowledge more than ever our shortcomings. In this sense we have a right to feel optimistic with regard to our future. May all Jordanians and all Arabs and Muslims everywhere have a happy and meaningful holidays.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Rai: What price life?

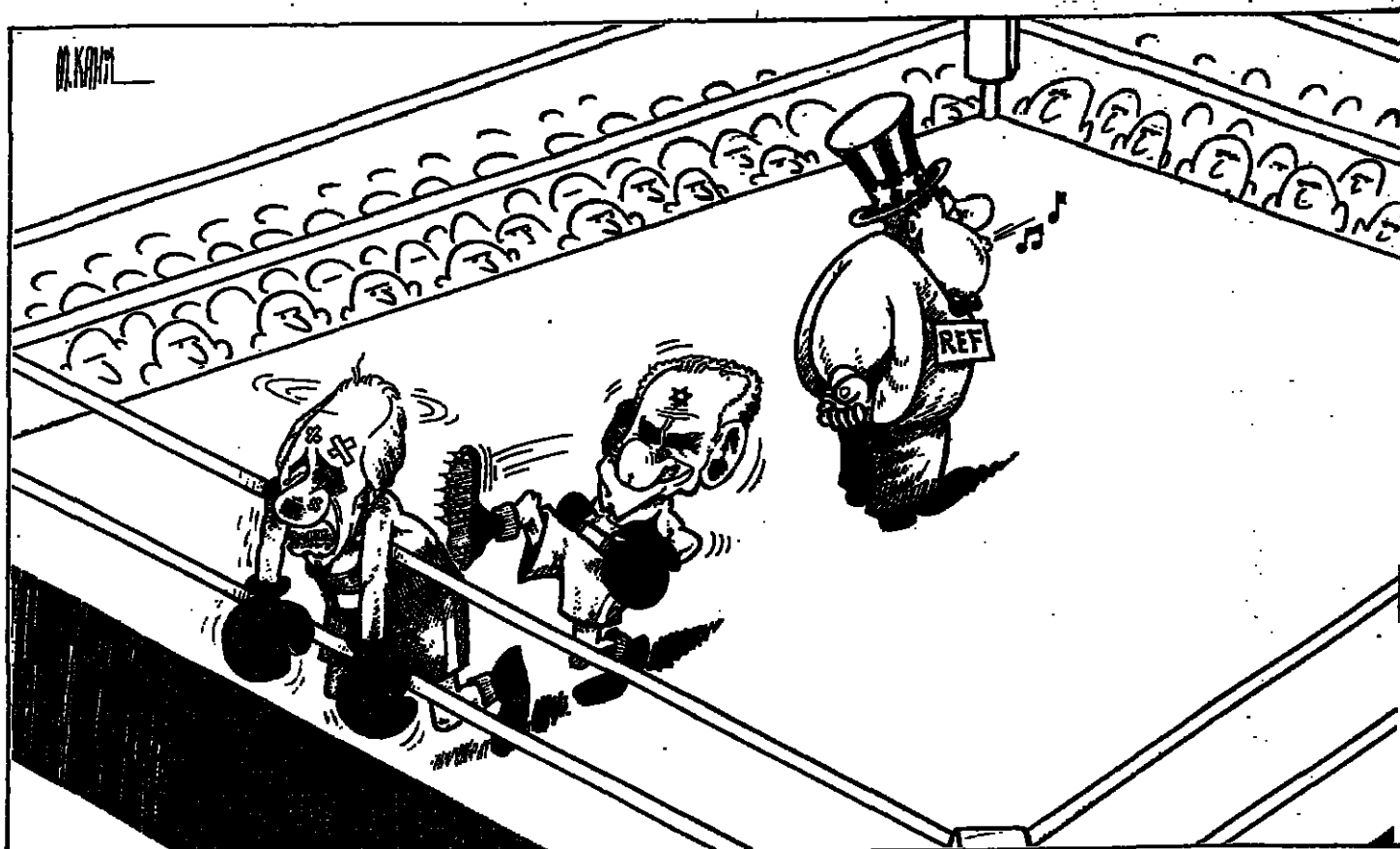
SINCE the U.S. frigate Stark was hit in the Gulf, we have been hearing lamentation in the Western media about the thousands of victims massacred in the Gulf war that has been raging for nearly seven years. There has been no serious attempt on the part of the West to stop the Iran-Iraq war that has caused the deaths of soldiers and civilians on both sides and caused untold sufferings and material losses. The talk about the frigate in the West is linked with the concern over the freedom of shipping which would ensure oil for the Western nations. But, in our view, the on-going war between Iraq and Iran which was directly responsible for the attack on the frigate, is more important now than the freedom of shipping in the Gulf waters. The Iraqi martyrs who fell in the war have been sacrificing their soul in defence of their country and the Arab homeland. The Iraqis have been fighting because they are right, and justice is on their side, and because they are repelling aggression. This war should first be stopped before the freedom of shipping can be safeguarded and the continuous bleeding of manpower and material resources should be ended so as to re-establish peace in the Gulf region and so ensure security for all ships.

Al Dustour: Offering lip service

WE did not expect the foreign ministers of the European Community countries to take such a speedy decision tantamount to a retreat from their February declaration about the Middle East questions. The European Community ministers who met in Brussels a few days ago said that the time is not ripe now for exerting peace efforts to end the Middle East conflict in view of the on-going differences between the partners in the Israeli coalition government. The European Community realises that the time is now opportune for holding an international Middle East conference specially as the United States began to change its position and take steps to support the community's stand with regard to the proposed conference. The European Community more or less had a similar stand to that of the Soviet Union with regard to the conference and of course similar to the position of the Arab nation. Therefore, it was surprising to see the community's foreign ministers going back on their earlier stand when they found themselves confronting an Israeli obstacle which was expected. What we see now is the European Community statement offering lip service to the Arabs. Indeed such stand on the part of the community is bound to undermine all prospects for holding the conference for which many serious efforts have been exerted.

Sawt Al Shaab: Children's safety

THE Israelis have been raising a hue and cry over the death of a little Israeli boy, and they accuse the Arabs of killing him, as a prelude to launching aggression on the Arab inhabitants and Arab countries. Since 1948, Israel has been killing children and women and many other innocent people and confiscating their property and demolishing their homes. The present children of Palestine continue to face Israeli atrocities and repression at the hands of terrorists and extremists who have been occupying Arab land since 1948. The Deir Yassin and Kufi Qasem massacres abound with facts about Israel's inhumanity and terrorism. More than 200 school children were murdered by Israeli raids on Bahr Al Baqar school in Egypt and thousands of children and innocent people were buried alive under the rubble of buildings shelled and bombed by Israeli forces in Lebanon. Those who speak about the safety of children should make sure that the safety of all children regardless of their nationality is ensured.



Stark attack revives executive-legislative branch argument in Washington circles

By W. Dale Nelson
 The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — More than three years ago, Secretary of State George Shultz told Congress that the War Powers Act could prevent the administration from doing "sensible things" to protect U.S. interests in the Gulf.

Members of Congress now are saying the act should be invoked to limit the president's plan to put Kuwaiti tankers under the U.S. flag and to take other measures after an Iraqi missile attack in the Gulf killed 37 American sailors. The disagreement is the latest of many that have dogged the War Powers Act since it was enacted over the veto of then-President Richard Nixon on Nov. 7, 1973, as an outgrowth of the undeclared U.S. war in Vietnam.

Supporters of the legislation say Nixon and presidents who followed him exercised powers that the drafters of the constitution intended to belong only to Congress.

Nixon argued the act usurped presidential authority. Subsequent presidents have agreed with him.

The act requires the president to notify Congress within 48 hours any time he sends combat troops into a foreign country or

"substantially enlarges" the number of troops already there. He must give progress reports to Congress every six months.

If the troops are sent into hostilities, or into "situations where imminent involvement in hostilities is clearly indicated," they must be withdrawn after 60 days, or in some circumstances 90 days, unless Congress declares war or authorizes them to remain.

The reporting provisions of the law were partially invoked in President Gerald Ford's report on his handling of the Cambodian seizure of the U.S. merchant ship Mayaguez, in President Jimmy Carter's report on the failed Iranian hostage rescue attempt and in President Ronald Reagan's two reports on the dispatch of marines to Lebanon.

In the Lebanon case, Congress passed a resolution in 1983 invoking the act and authorized the marines to remain in Lebanon until early 1985. The marines were withdrawn in February 1984, however, after American forces in Lebanon suffered 266 fatalities.

Shultz argued at the time that the act's restrictions encouraged Syria to wait for the administration to withdraw U.S. marines without having to pull its own forces out of Lebanon.

In testimony before a Senate appropriations subcommittee March 1, 1983, Shultz said the act could inhibit the use of American military force in the event the Iran-Iraq war threatened vital American interests.

He said the legislation prevented the administration from doing "sensible things."

Shultz's words have again become timely because of events surrounding the May 17 Iraqi missile attack on the USS Stark.

On May 18, Reagan ordered U.S. forces in the Gulf to fire at Iranian or Iraqi warplanes approaching "in a pattern which indicates hostile intent."

The White House announcement of the decision, which followed a meeting of the National Security Council planning group, said notification under the War Powers Act was not required.

The Washington Post reported Thursday that White House Chief of Staff Howard Baker argued the act should be invoked. Baker, as Senate Republican leader in the early 1980s, was an architect of the agreement covering the marines in Lebanon.

The newspaper said Shultz agreed with his department's legal advisers that the act need not be invoked.

White House spokesman Mar-

lin Fitzwater said there had been disagreement on the question, but did not elaborate.

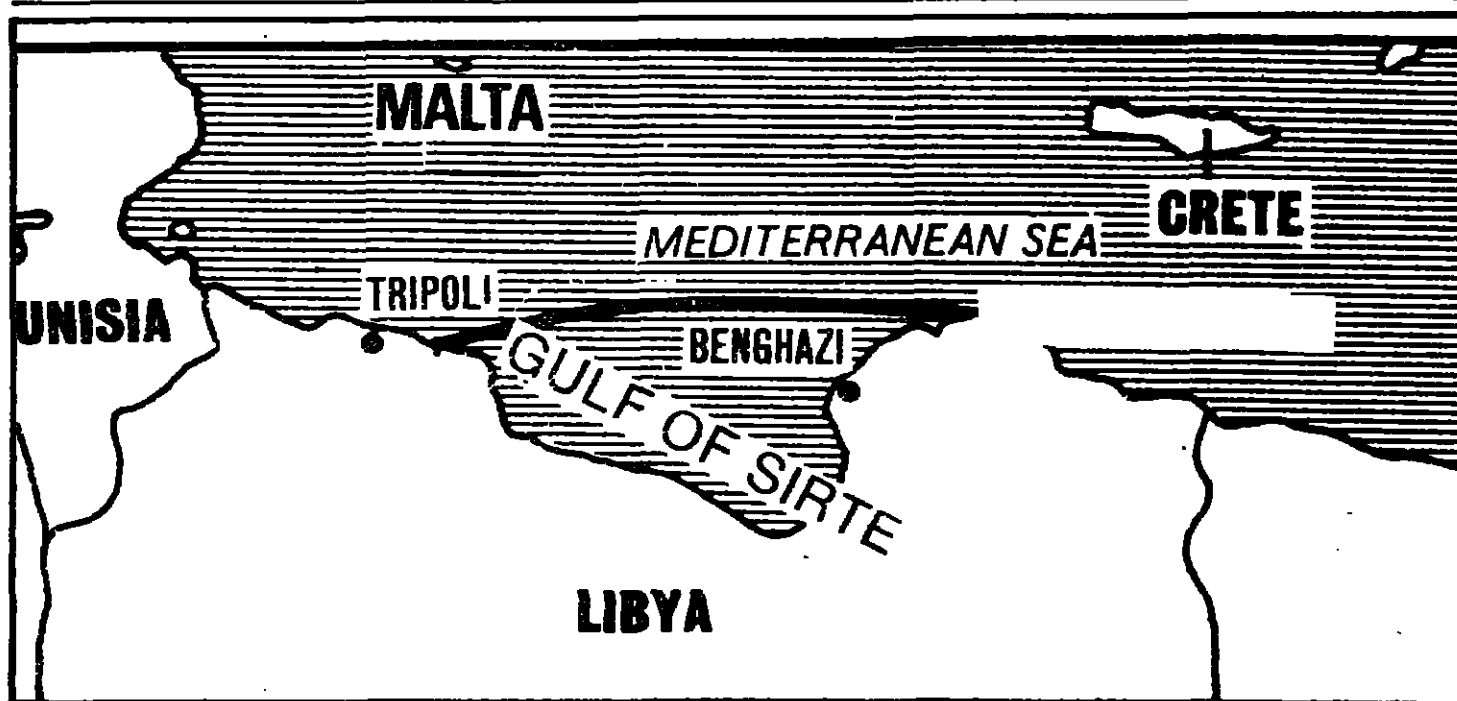
Meanwhile, the administration is proceeding with plans, undertaken before the Stark attack, to have Kuwaiti tankers fly the U.S. flag as a protective measure.

It is not the first time that Reagan, like his predecessors, has been at odds with Congress over the War Powers Act. He accepted its application reluctantly in the case of Lebanon and has refused congressional demands that it be applied to U.S. actions in Central America and Libya.

When Reagan ordered naval bombardment of Libyan boats and missile installations in March 1986, then-White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan told reporters: "War powers do not come into play. This is not something new. We answered fire with fire."

The next month, when the president ordered an air strike on Libya, he and his advisers did meet with congressional leaders, but not until the bombers already were in the air.

"Although questions were raised about the War Powers act, when no one strongly objected to the raid, it was obvious it was a go," said one participant in the meeting, declining to be identified.



Malta's government swings towards West

By Joe Scicluna
 Reuters

VALLETTA — On a hill behind the great harbour dockyards stands Malta's only mosque, a green and gilded gift from Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi a decade ago.

On the horizon all around can be seen the heavy domes of baroque churches dear to the hearts of the Maltese. While the mosque still draws 60 or so Muslims for Friday prayers, even its guardian is a Christian.

The mosque and a shabby boarding that dominates one side of Valletta's central palace square, advertising the Libyan cultural centre, may soon be the only remaining outward symbols of the old Malta-Libya friendship.

The Maltese Labour Party fell from power last week after 16 years in office and the new centre-right nationalist government wants the 305-square-kilometre island to move into line with Western Europe and end Malta's pro-Libyan, pro-Soviet image.

"Malta will no longer be the maverick of the Mediterranean," said the new prime minister, Edward Fenech Adami.

to allow foreign bases on the island.

They will also try to join the European Community. Diplomats say this is a long-term hope and there is still scope for more cooperation within existing agreements.

Western European countries already buy three-quarters of Malta's exports, have relatively large investments in Maltese industry and supply 90 per cent of its tourists.

The Nationalists have particularly close links to the Christian Democratic parties of Italy and West Germany.

Malta's links with Libya date back to the 1970s when the Labour Party was adopting independent policies after 150 years of British domination of the country.

Fenech Adami stressed that cooperation would continue with the big, militant and relatively rich North African country 350 kilometres to the south.

"Malta will maintain a friendly, close relationship with Libya. But we do not think that Malta should be associated with Libya's own policies," Fenech Adami said.

Libya has investments in about 25 of Malta's 400 hotels and industrial enterprises, unofficially estimated to be worth at least \$100 million.

Libya has not commented officially on the election. In the campaign, Labour said Libyan



Edward Fenech Adami

and Soviet investment might evaporate if the Nationalists won.

A Soviet diplomat said Malta-Soviet trade ran at six per cent of the Maltese total. He saw the recent election as "political theatre" and said that for Moscow, little would change.

The Soviet Union has favoured Malta with hundreds of annual scholarships and a visit last year by the Bolshoi Ballet, but the electorate gave the pro-Moscow Communist Party only 121 votes in the election.

The Soviet Union also placed an order last year for eight small ships from Malta's fledgling shipbuilding yard. An order for a further eight hangs in the balance.

Both Soviet and U.S. sources

say they do not particularly need Malta as a military base but are determined that the other side shall not have it.

Libya employs about 800 Maltese and has bought between two and nine per cent of Malta's total exports in the past four years. The proportion last year was five per cent, or about \$30 million.

Libya's help in the 1970s included oil supplies at concessionary prices, investment and army vehicles and uniforms.

But Maltese-Libyan relations went through a rocky patch in the early 1980s when Qadhafi and Malta's former leader, Dom Mintoff, disputed offshore oil exploration zoning.

Ties gradually recovered and in 1984 Mintoff signed a treaty with Libya that provided for trade and security links, including a Maltese promise not to allow attacks on Libya from Malta and a Libyan commitment to give military aid to Malta if explicitly asked.

Outgoing Prime Minister Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici, Mintoff's successor, said Malta shared intelligence as specified in the treaty but that Malta never called on Libyan help in training its small police force and army — a task at present done mostly by Italy.

The Nationalists have said they do not want to abrogate the treaty but may modify security clauses when it comes up for renewal in 1989.

Israel leaders weather spy affair but scandals raise serious doubts

By Paul Taylor
 Reuters

TEL AVIV — Israeli political leaders seem likely to weather criticism by inquiries into the Pollard spy affair but a spate of scandals has raised doubts about whether Israel's vaunted secret services are adequately controlled.

Two inquiries — one government-appointed, one parliamentary — have blamed the government for a bungled espionage operation in Washington which strained Israel's relations with the United States. Both, however, contended that cabinet ministers did not know what was going on.

With the country's two major parties, Labour and the right-wing Likud bloc, sharing power and responsibility in a "national unity" government, neither seemed likely to try to force ministerial resignations over the issue.

Parliament's intelligence subcommittee said Foreign Minister Shimon Peres was "first among equals" to bear responsibility since he was prime minister for most of the period in 1984 and 1985 when U.S. navy intelligence analyst Jonathan Pollard was passing top secret American documents to Israel.

It criticised Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin for failing to supervise the Lekem scientific intelligence unit which recruited and ran Pollard. Peres and Rabin are both Labour Party members.

Pollard, a 32-year-old Jew, was sentenced to life imprisonment in Washington in March.

The panel attached lesser blame to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and minister-without-portfolio Moshe Arens, both Likud, who were prime minister and defence minister respectively when the Pollard operation began in 1984.

The leaders of Israel's shaky government, divided over many other issues, moved quickly in unison Tuesday night to defuse the criticism and appease the United States.

The inner cabinet accepted the government-appointed commission's recommendations for better control of intelligence operations, and sought to dismiss the parliamentary panel's more individual criticisms as politically motivated.

"The mountain gave birth to a mouse," Shamir scoffed of the parliamentary investigation headed by elder statesman Abba Eban.

"It's a political committee, and in the current atmosphere political considerations were dominant," Rabin said.

That atmosphere is clouded by a major dispute over Peres' proposals for an international Middle East peace conference, rejected by Shamir, which has prompted Labour to call for early general elections.

Ironically, the Pollard inquiry reports may slow the drive for elections since Peres and Labour appear most tarnished and scandals can pull a rickety government closer together.

An unknown factor is whether

Washington will be satisfied that Israel has got to the bottom of the affair and taken the necessary corrective measures.

When air force Colonel Aviem Sella, who recruited Pollard, resigned the command of a major Israeli air base last month, U.S. officials voiced some satisfaction but said more steps were needed.

The reports drew no immediate comment from Washington, but diplomats said there was no sign the Reagan administration would press for Israeli political scalp.

There is bound to be increased pressure for spy-master Rafael Eitan, who headed the now-disbanded Lekem, to be ousted from his job as chairman of Israel Chemicals, the country's biggest corporation.

Both reports said Eitan exceeded his authority by running a reckless operation without political permission.

On that point, the Pollard affair resembles a series of other scandals which have rocked the present government.

Last year, it was disclosed that the Shin Bet service had beaten to death two Palestinians in 1984, and then organised an elaborate cover-up to avoid responsibility.

The head of Shin Bet and 10 aides received controversial pardons from President Chaim Herzog in exchange for their resignations. Israel's political leaders said they had not known about the affair.

This week, the supreme court upheld the appeal of a jailed Muslim army officer who said he was coerced by Shin Bet into a false confession of treason and espionage.

The court severely criticised interrogation methods bordering on torture. Israel's political leaders said they had not known about the affair.

Asked if he thought Israeli leaders should be judged by the public over the Pollard affair, Peres said Wednesday: "If there is a crime, I do not see any crime."

U.S. Ambassador to Israel Thomas Pickering declined to comment on the inquiry reports.

"We have not had time to study these reports. So obviously neither I nor my government will be commenting until we've had a chance to analyse and digest what has been provided us," he told reporters.

Israeli newspapers criticised the inquiry for not demanding the country's leaders take personal responsibility for the affair and said a more powerful judicial inquiry should have been appointed.

"Instead of naming names, (the panel) found the whole cabinet responsible for a series of failures. If 25 (cabinet ministers) are responsible for mistakes and bungles then no one is responsible," said Haaretz newspaper in an editorial.

The Davar newspaper, affiliated with Peres's Labour Party, wrote: "It is possible we will again (see)... the operational level pay the price, and the political level free itself (from blame)."

From six world leaders, a plea for disarmament

This statement, written by Raul Alfonsín, president of Argentina, was signed by him; Miguel de la Madrid, president of Mexico; Ingvar Carlsson, prime minister of Sweden; Rajiv Gandhi, prime minister of India; Julius Nyerere, president of Tanzania; and Andreas Papandreu, prime minister of Greece. It was released last Friday in their capitals.

THREE years ago, on May 22, 1984, we demanded that humanity's survival should not be jeopardised by the threat of a nuclear catastrophe. Today, we make an appeal not to jeopardise the opportunity to start a process of nuclear disarmament.

Since our first appeal, we have welcomed the resumption of the dialogue on nuclear and space issues. At the Geneva meeting in November 1985, President Reagan and General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev declared that "a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought." At Reykjavik, there was a clear demonstration that given political will, far-reaching agreements on nuclear disarmament measures could be achieved.

Disarmament negotiations are now at a crucial point. There is a real possibility for an agreement in at least one important area. A breakthrough on the issue of nuclear arms in Europe appears to be within reach.

An agreement to eliminate all intermediate nuclear forces from Europe would be of considerable significance and would constitute the crossing of an important psychological threshold, since, for the first time, it would lead to mutual withdrawal and destruction of fully operational nuclear weapons systems. We, therefore, urge the United States and the Soviet Union to conduct their current negotiations with a view to bringing them to a successful conclusion during 1987.

However, an agreement on intermediate nuclear forces would be only the first step toward our common goal: the total elimination of nuclear weapons everywhere. In the New Delhi measures — a halting of all nuclear testing and the prevention of an arms race in outer space. We reiterate the crucial importance of these measures. In Mexico, we made a concrete offer on verification of a halt to nuclear testing. That offer remains.

For too long, fear and mistrust have prevented progress in disarmament. Arms and fears feed on each other. Now is the time to break this vicious circle and lay the foundation for a more secure world. The present momentum should not be lost. We urge President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev to live up to this challenge so that future generations are spared the nightmare of a nuclear holocaust.

British elections will see first black in parliament for decades

By Alan Elner
Reuters

LONDON — Britain is likely to get its first non-white members of parliament for more than 60 years with a handful of controversial left-wing black politicians expected to win seats in the June 11 general election.

The opposition Labour Party is fielding 14 black and Asian candidates, and of these, three are standing in what are regarded as safe Labour seats, where the party has traditionally had a large majority.

If elected they will be the first non-whites in the 650 seat House of Commons since an Indian won a seat for the Communist Party in 1924.

The three prominent black activists on the so-called "hard left" of the party, are local council official Diane Abbott, outspoken council leader Bernie Grant, and black rights lawyer Paul Boateng.

There are several other non-white Labour candidates in winnable constituencies.

The radicalism of many black candidates, coupled with their open hostility to the white establishment, has dismayed some sections of the 2.6 million-strong non-white community while creating a serious problem for Labour leader Neil Kinnock.

Kinnock recently dismissed one black parliamentary candidate, Sharon Atkins, after she accused him and the Labour Party of being racist for refusing a demand to establish a separate black interest section within the party.

"Historically our people were put into slavery by white people and we must never forget we are still in slavery today. We have

paid enough, we want our time now," Atkins said.

But many Asian immigrants, who are beginning to climb Britain's social ladder as businessmen, shopkeepers and professionals, are disturbed by the identification of blacks with extreme leftist causes.

"We have campaigned a long time to have more candidates from the minority communities. What has dismayed us is the quality of candidates," said Tara Mukherjee, president of the Confederation of Indian Organisations.

"If they get into the House of Commons, they will set back race relations in this country by a decade," he said.

Although blacks and Asians represent four per cent of the electorate, political parties have been slow to select them to contest seats where they have a realistic chance of success.

The ruling Conservative Party and centrist alliance have followed a similar pattern this time, putting up a total of 11 non-white candidates but all in seats they have little or no chance of winning.

In the last election in 1983, some black and Asian candidates did less well than white colleagues in comparable constituencies, raising the possibility of the existence of an anti-black vote.

Black leaders are worried that a similar backlash by white voters this time could deepen racial divisions and inter-communal strains in British society, which has been shaken by waves of savage riots in the past six years.

The riots of 1981 and 1985 focused attention on the degree of anger, alienation and frustration felt by a new generation of black

Britons. Unemployed and trapped in squalid inner-city slums, many were turning to drugs and petty crime.

Their bitterness was clearly shared by some of their leaders, like Bernie Grant, who in 1985 created a national storm by appearing to condone the murder of a policeman by rioters.

The police got a bloody good hiding," he said after one officer was backed to death and scores more were injured in Britain's worst inner-city riot in Tottenham, north London.

People like Grant, now standing for parliament in Tottenham, represent a serious headache for Kinnock, according to Marian Fitzgerald, author of a recent study of blacks in British politics.

To win the election, she said, Labour needed to gain the votes of whites "who at best have little or no sympathy with black people, and who at worst may be antagonistic to them."

Labour's chances of doing so had been immensely damaged by an unremitting, hostile press campaign waged by the national press against Grant and other black left-wingers, she said.

According to the Commission for Racial Equality, 81 per cent of black voters supported Labour in the last election in 1983. Most are expected to do so again this time.

For some black and Asian leaders, the fact that the non-white community will at last have representatives in parliament is more important than their politics.

"I don't know if black members of parliament will be able to achieve much. But at least they will give hope that the system is not rejecting us," said Chandrakant Patel, owner of New Life, a weekly magazine catering for Asian readers.

Norway's prime minister active in world environment issues

By Arthur Max
The Associated Press

OSLO, Norway — Gro Harlem Brundtland — feminist, environmentalist, physician, prime minister — has taken on a mission more involved than just running Norway's government.

Mrs. Brundtland heads a prestigious United Nations-appointed commission that has just published a revolutionary report on development and the environment.

Now she has the task of persuading others around the world to accept it.

She sees her task as nothing less than securing the earth's future, and her hard-driving personality likely will propel her further into the international limelight.

Her political opponents charge that she is devoting so much time to the commission that she is neglecting her duties as prime minister; her aides acknowledge that the job has added political risks to her already-shaky minority government.

Her domestic worries are formidable. Inflation has doubled to more than 10 per cent since she took office in May 1986, partly because she backed trade union demands for wage increases. Falling prices for Norway's North Sea oil have meant less income to fuel one of the world's most all-embracing welfare states.

Promoting the environment report will take her on the road often before she goes before the U.N. General Assembly in September in New York. She has been working on the project for three years.

Mrs. Brundtland, a 48-year-old mother of four, already has become known as the first truly feminist head of government. She has eight women in her 18-member cabinet, the highest percentage in the world.

She does not deny reports that her ambition is to become secretary general of the United Nations, becoming the first woman to hold the post.

Despite their own economic troubles, many Norwegians are proud of the attention Mrs. Brundtland has brought the



Gro Harlem Brundtland

country.

"Our image has been too much midnight sun and reindeer," said Oivind Ostang, a spokesman in her office.

"She has been aware of the problem of balancing her internal tasks with international tasks," Ostang added in an interview, and she has had to be selective in deciding which international conferences to attend.

The commission's report, "Our Common Future," issues a doomsday warning that the planet is heading toward self-destruction, and says the world economy must grow to ensure the needs of future generations.

It criticises the World Bank, other international agencies and the splintered political system in the Western democracies as being shortsighted.

"The world has to change," Mrs. Brundtland says of the 250-page report. "This is not an agenda for hoping that in 20 years something fantastic will happen."

"There are such negative trends in so many areas that we cannot sit back and wait. It has to be done now," she told reporters recently.

Although often compared with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of Britain, Mrs. Brundtland comes across as less severe and more informal. She prefers to be called Gro, pronounced "grew."

She wears her hair short and natural, and favours bright dresses that set off eyes described by one Swedish reporter as "blue enough to make a Norwegian

fjord seem pale."

Unlike other women leaders, Mrs. Brundtland made feminism an issue, never claiming to be merely a politician who happened to be a woman.

Her Labour Party has ruled that each sex must have at least 40 per cent representation on its elected bodies, and Mrs. Brundtland has made that a national goal as well.

"We need both women and men in society's work, just like we need a mother and father at home," she has been quoted as saying.

"She readily admits that having so many women in the cabinet has had an effect on policy decisions."

"You can see it from the way women's experiences come into debate," Ostang said.

He cited the case of last year's budget discussion, when the government refused to trim allocations for kindergartens or to cut back on pregnancy leave.

Mrs. Brundtland, although twice prime minister, has never won an election. She took over for eight months in 1981 when Odvar Nordli retired due to illness, and again last year when the Conservative-led government collapsed.

The Socialist prime minister lives in her suburban semi-detached home with her husband Arne, a researcher in political science and, at the other end of the political spectrum, an activist for the right-wing opposition party.

Their children, ages 19 to 25, are said to have been fed on foreign-policy discussions at breakfast. None of them is prominently involved in politics.

Mrs. Brundtland, the daughter of former Defence Minister Gudmund Harlem, who also was a physician, studied medicine in Norway and specialised in public health at Harvard in the United States.

She was plucked from a city public health job to become environment minister in 1974 when the Labour Party was looking for a fresh image. She was then 35.

"It's important for a politician to have the experience of a normal profession and to live like a normal citizen," she has said.

Randa Habib's Corner

Looking inwards for 'Eid

ONE would have expected that with the long 'Eid Al Fitr tour operators would also organise group trips inside Jordan, and not limit them to Cyprus, Turkey, Egypt etc. Four days off for all government departments and institutions is a rare occasion for the people to enjoy a real holiday in their own country.

For a family, travelling even to the nearest country nowadays necessitates a real budget when one takes into consideration the newly imposed JD 15 per person airport tax.

Take for example Damascus. The airfare is JD 19, but consider the JD 15 airport tax. So, this is the time for internal tourism. The best option is destination within Jordan like Azraq, the Al Rabab Castle in Ajloun, or the desert castles, or — even closer to Amman — to Arak Al Amir Ahi Al Kahaf. Simple trips can be organised in comfortable buses, with a guide and some entertainment.

Unfortunately only late night shows are organised on the occasion of the feast. But what about days, and, mostly, what about the children?

The only advertisement I have seen that may also concern them is a train ride on Friday from Mahatta to the airport. Pity it is only a short ride; why not such a trip to Ma'an?

Big hotels could themselves have organised picnics in one of the nice spots of our country, making good business for themselves and a nice day out for the people. Surely, the choice must not be to travel abroad and have fun or stay home and get bored.

Race is on to make superconductors practical

By Catherine Arnst
Reuters

BOSTON — An international race is on to find practical uses for superconductors, the most exciting new development in physics — and the products could make the predictions of science fiction seem true.

The rush to perfect superconductors — which transmit electricity without any loss of energy — accelerated last week when International Business Machines (IBM) announced it had found a way to send 1,000 times the current carried by typical household wire.

Superconductor discoveries of the last four months have given rise to visions of lightning-fast trains that float above their tracks, desktop computers 100 times more powerful than today's room-filling supercomputers, electricity produced safely with nuclear fusion rather than fission, and medical devices to detect ultra-small tumours and tissue fissures.

Researchers caution that most commercial applications of superconductors are 10 or even 20 years away, but governments and private companies around the world are spending large sums looking for ways to cash in on the revolutionary new material.

Japan's Ministry of Industry and Trade has formed a national research consortium and funded a \$130 million superconductor research centre.

In the United States, the National Science Foundation has earmarked \$6.5 million for superconductors and the Strategic Defence Initiative organisation plans to spend \$2 million next year on them.

"Genuine scientific breakthroughs occur only rarely," said Argonne National Laboratory director Alan Schrieffer, testifying before the U.S. Congress in support of a proposal to form a Japanese-style consortium for superconductor research.

"This is a breakthrough of such a magnitude, like the laser or the transistor, that it may spawn a whole industry or a series of industries," he said.

To date, IBM, American Telephone and Telegraph (ATT) and various national or university laboratories have been the leaders in superconductor research.

But as materials for making superconductors get less costly and manufacturing methods are perfected, small firms will also be

able to cash in with superconductor-based products, scientists and business people believe.

Superconductors, unlike standard conductors of electricity such as copper wire, have no electrical resistance and can carry currents without any loss of energy.

They were first found in 1911, when Dutch scientist Heike Onnes observed that metals lose all resistance when cooled to absolute zero, which scientists refer to as 0 Kelvin.

Absolute zero, equal to minus 460 Fahrenheit (minus 273.15 centigrade), is the coldest temperature conceivable and the point at which all motion of atoms stops, representing a total absence of heat.

Although scientists recognised the enormous implications of the discovery, progress was impeded because such cold temperatures were difficult to achieve, requiring the use of extremely expensive liquid helium.

By 1973 scientists had succeeded in raising the temperature for superconductivity only to -419 F (-251 C), still far too cold to be commercially feasible.

But in January 1986, IBM researchers Karl Alex Muller and Johannes Georg Bednorz announced they had used a ceramic compound to achieve superconductivity at -396.4 F (-238.4 C).

Then last February, University of Houston researcher Paul Chu and his colleagues announced they had discovered a ceramic compound which remained superconductive at -283 F (-175 C) and could be cooled with inexpensive liquid nitrogen.

By April, some scientists reported ceramic compounds showing superconductive properties at the relatively balmy temperature of -27 F (-33 C) and Soviet scientists reported they saw superconductivity at -9 F (-23 C). Raising the temperature limits is only one of the problems that researchers must overcome, however, before superconductors become a commonplace item.

The manufacturing process currently presents a tremendous roadblock.

Because ceramic is brittle, it is difficult to create large quantities of the material that are also shatterproof and can be easily bent the way wire can.

IBM took another tack, creating thin films of the ceramic material that are applied like paint to other materials.

Cliff dwellers might have built for warfare defence, not comfort

By Mercer Cross
National Geographic

SANTA FE — The prehistoric Indian cliff dwellers of the American southwest might not have been as peaceable as has generally been thought since their ruins were discovered a century ago.

Anthropologist Jonathan Haas, director of programme and research at the School of American Research here, talks enthusiastically about what he calls "a very new, different way of looking at things in the Southwest."

For the past four years, Haas has been exploring the mesas, valleys, and canyons around the Navajo National Monument in northeastern Arizona, testing his theories of conflict among the Kayenta Anasazi Indians 700 to 800 years ago.

Tségi Canyon settlements

This past summer, Haas and his research team, with support from the National Geographic Society, found two previously unknown settlements in the Tsegi Canyon system, in the heart of an area that has been intensively surveyed over the past 75 years.

One of the sites, accessible only by way of a naturally concealed crack in the precipitous sandstone of a 99-foot butte, was a 200-room pueblo, one of the largest ever found in the region and once home to a sizable Kayenta population atop the mesa.

The other new find was a 30-room pueblo, unvisited for more than seven centuries, in a canyon rock shelter that could be reached only by an expedition member who is a skilled climber.

Both locations, Haas concludes, must have been selected for only one reason: defence against possible attackers.

Neither, he thinks, could have been chosen for the reasons customarily attributed to the Anasazi: nearby arable land, readily available water and protection from the weather.

Access to both required a rugged climb. Water and food sources were a considerable distance away. The mesa-top pueblo offered scant protection from the often harsh elements; the rock-shelter pueblo was built on a relatively steep slant, its narrow ledge of front yard disappearing over a 140-foot cliff.

The combined discoveries helped "blow the whole hypothesis of people moving up to the headwaters of the canyon," Haas says. "No one has ever thought to look on top of that butte for a site."

Great place to live?

Some Anasazi Indians had dwelt in relative comfort in cliff houses for centuries. But, in support of his argument that this year's find and other late-settled Kayenta cliff dwellings were built for defence, Haas asks, "If they were such great places to live, why didn't anybody live there before 1250?"



Unseen by human eyes for centuries, a newly discovered 30-room Anasazi Indian cliff-dwelling in northeastern Arizona is nearly inaccessible beneath a hard-to-find shelter (National Geographic photo).

Traditional wisdom has held that drought and other environmental pressures forced the Anasazi up the canyons, closer to dwindling water sources, in the late 13th century. By the beginning of the 14th century they were gone.

Haas takes exception to the conventional wisdom. "What happens when the entire region is in poor condition?" he asks. "It's at that point that warfare breaks out. And it's a raiding-type warfare."

To get away from the raiders and establish solid defensive positions, the Kayenta sought sites such as the inaccessible mesa and rock shelter for their pueblos, Haas thinks. His major conclusion: "Warfare is a last resort for human populations."

Ancestors of the Kayenta Anasazi roamed the Southwest 10,000 years ago. By about 5000 B.C., nomadic bands were formed. Not until about A.D. 500 did a distinctive Kayenta culture start to emerge. Starting about 700, the Kayenta lived in pueblos.

In the Long House Valley of Arizona, where Haas has done much of his research, small villages appeared A.D. 1000 and 1150.

By 1250, apparently as a result of erosion, drought, and a sinking water table, villages on open sites were abandoned by the hundreds. The Kayenta started building hard-to-reach shelters on the buttes above the valley. Once small villages consolidated in five distinct clusters. Pueblos of 75 to 400 rooms emerged.

Significantly, Haas notes, all

Thai gem industry risks becoming victim of its own success

By Siriporn Buranaphan
Reuters

BANGKOK — The Thai gem industry could fall victim to its own brilliant export success as demand for jewels from Bangkok outstrips the number of cutters and rough stones needed to produce them.

Sales of gems and jewellery abroad have doubled since 1984 while cutters, many toiling in cramped rooms behind glittering shops, have hired almost no apprentices to carry on the craft, gem dealers say.

The cutters, who turn rough stones into fine jewels for one-tenth the cost of such work in western countries, will probably soon start demanding higher wages, they say.

Their sapphires and rubies should also go up in price as dealers import more from neighbouring Burma and Kampuchea.

At the receiving end, the United States — the biggest market for Thai gems — has reacted to

the boom by deciding to slap a 6.5 per cent duty from July 1 on Thailand's glittering exports, many of which used to be duty-free.

The industry's prospects are as worrying for the Thai government as they are for the dealers. The gem industry has shot up to fifth place on the country's list of export earners.

"We have expanded too fast," said Pomsit Sriothaikul, vice-president of the Thai Gems and Jewellery Traders Association.

"The boom in the industry during the past two years may be harmful to its future," he told journalists.

"If we continue at this pace, we will not be able to train enough gem cutters and this will lead to higher wage demands and raise production costs."

According to government figures, Thai gems and jewellery exports are expected to double to 14.5 billion baht (\$558 million) this year from \$7.4 billion baht (\$288 million) in 1984.

Despite the boom, the number of cutters has stagnated at about 50,000, according to a gem expert.

Earning between \$80 and \$400 a month, their cheap labour and advanced skills have made Bangkok as important a centre for coloured stones as Antwerp, and New York are for diamonds.

Thailand became a centre for the gem industry in the 1960s after Burma's socialist government suffocated the trade there by nationalising Burmese gem mines there, a leading American jewellery expert told Reuters.

"There were only a handful of gem traders in Thailand at the time," said Richard Hughes of Bangkok's Asian Institute of Gemological Sciences.

In Kampuchea, the bloody reign of the Khmer Rouge and the guerrilla war that followed their 1979 overthrow by Vietnam have effectively wiped out the only other competition the Thai gem industry had in the region.

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Connors, Becker restore norm to French Open in 3rd day

PARIS (R) — Wimbledon champion Boris Becker and crafty old campaigner Jimmy Connors finally restored an air of normality to the French Open tennis championships at Roland Garros on Wednesday.

After Tuesday's defeats of John McEnroe, Pat Cash and Henri Leconte by three virtual unknowns, the mayhem continued this morning when Sweden's Mikael Pernfors, runner up to Ivan Lendl last year, became the fifth man's seed to fall in the first round.

Much to the delight of the wildly enthusiastic crowd who ignored the chill wind and intermittent rain on court 11, the 13th-seeded Swede was beaten 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-0 by Tarik Benhabiles, ranked fifth in France.

But Becker, though, he had to save five set points in the third set of his 6-0, 6-1, 7-5 victory over Uruguayan Diego Perez and the 34-year-old Connors struck two blows for the recognised aristocracy.

Eighth-seeded Connors is staging his 10th campaign on the Paris clay and openly admits he has little chance of matching the success he enjoyed here in 1979, 1980, 1984 and 1985 when he reached the semifinals.

But a typically gritty 7-5, 6-2, 6-2 win over fellow-American Todd Nelson, whom he led by two sets when rain halted play on Tuesday night, left Connors in a happy frame of mind, though he did confess: "It was a little cold for these old bones out there."

"It would certainly help me if it warmed up a bit, but I'm way beyond the stage for me to worry about what actually happens."

Although he stressed he would be trying to win here, at Wimbledon and at the U.S. Open later this summer, Connors went on: "But I won't be going berserk if I lose. I've fulfilled my time — for good or bad — and I'm only here because I love playing."

Like Connors, Becker resumed with a two-set advantage over Perez but the second-seeded

West German struggled on a court made even slower by heavy rain overnight.

The Uruguayan beat Becker 6-3, 6-1 the last time they met on clay — the German's first appearance after winning the 1985 Wimbledon title — and the teenager was happy to settle that old score.

"I've won on every surface except clay," said Becker. "It's nice to know I can play well on it especially against such a dangerous player as Perez."

"There have been a number of so-called shocks here so far, but people should remember that although some of these players may be relatively unknown, they're well known on the clay-court circuit."

Mountaineers fail to climb Everest

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP) — High winds hit mount Everest Wednesday forcing Czechoslovak and Spanish teams to abandon their efforts to climb the world's highest mountain, their base camps reported by radio.

The short message from the Czechoslovak's base camp said, the climbers were coming down to the base camp. The climbers had reached 8,300 metres, 548 metres below the summit.

The 33-member team led by Vian Galfy, 53-year-old chief of the mountain rescue service of Czechoslovakia, planned to leave the base camp Friday for Katmandu en route home.

The Spaniards' message said that aside from the high winds, it was "too cold" to stay on the 8,848-metre Everest. Members of its team went as high as 8,250 metres.

Soviet athletes to play in Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — Two Soviet basketball players are scheduled to compete in Israel next month in what would be the first appearance by Soviet athletes since Moscow broke diplomatic ties in 1967.

The two star basketball players are included on a list of European all-stars selected to play an exhibition game in Tel Aviv in June, Israeli basketball official Shimon Mizrahi has said.

There was no independent confirmation from Moscow of the athletes' plans.

Mizrahi identified the Soviet players as Arvidas Sabonis, star of the national champion Kaunas team, and Vladimir Tichonenko of Moscow's Soviet Army team.

The European all-star team was selected by FIBA, the Federation International Basketball Association, Mizrahi said. The team is scheduled to play two more exhibition games in June following its Tel Aviv appearance — one in Saloniki, Greece, and one in Sofia, Bulgaria.

"These players are on the FIBA team. I see no reason why they would not come," Mizrahi, chairman of Israel's championship club Maccabi Tel Aviv, said at a news conference Tuesday.

If the players come, it would be the first time Soviet athletes have competed in Israel since the Kremlin severed diplomatic ties with Israel during the 1967 Middle East war.

Seattle Dancer misses Epsom Derby in favour of French

DUBLIN (R) — Seattle Dancer, quoted as low as 10-1 for next week's Epsom Derby, will miss the race in favour of the French Derby four days later.

Trainer Vincent O'Brien, who has won the English Derby six times, said he would now rely at Epsom on "Entitled, second in the Irish 2,000 Guineas earlier this month."

Seattle Dancer, who cost a record \$13.1 million as a yearling, has won two of his three races. The colt was an impressive four-length winner of a preparatory race last week, although some experts expressed misgivings about the horse's habit of swishing his tail when under pressure.

Entitled, owned by Robert Sangster, who has won the Epsom Classic twice, has been trimmed from 20-1 to 12-1 in the betting.

There was more surprise news for backers on Wednesday when trainer Geoff Wragg had to withdraw Epsom Oaks second favourite Percy's Lass from the race on June 6.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Adduften 4th Arab tourney kicks off today

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Adduften 4th Arab Soccer Tournament kicks off Thursday with an opening match between the tourney organisers and Gaza team at Amman International Stadium at 7:30 p.m. A strong and renowned club, Gaza's players have had several encounters in Amman including the famous match held eight years ago with Al Hussein team in which the Gazans won 4 to 1. On the second day of the tourney, Friday, Jordan's national youth team will take on Al Ettihad team, from Alexandria, Egypt. Lebanon's Al Riyada and Adab team is scheduled to meet Adduften on Saturday.

Celtics edges Pistons in NBA semifinals

BOSTON (AP) — Larry Bird stole an inbound pass and fed Dennis Johnson for the winning layup with one second left, giving the Boston Celtics a 108-107 victory over the Detroit Pistons Tuesday night and a 3-2 lead in their National Basketball Association (NBA) Eastern Conference final. Isiah Thomas had put Detroit ahead 107-106 with a jumper from the foul line with 17 seconds remaining. Bird then missed a shot with four seconds to go and the ball went out of bounds off Boston's Jerry Sichting. Thomas attempted to throw the ball in from the sideline to Bill Laimbeer under the Boston Basket, but Bird raced in to steal it and passed the ball to Johnson, who was flashing to the basket.

Dutch cup final finds venue but not date

THE HAGUE (R) — After a week of searching, the Dutch Football Association (KNVB) has found a venue for the potentially-troublesome cup final between Ajax Amsterdam and Den Haag but has yet to fix a date. Eindhoven's deputy mayor, Peter Van Der Baar, said his city was prepared to host the event but could not organise it by June 3, the scheduled cup final date. Amsterdam, The Hague, Rotterdam and Utrecht all refused to accept the final because supporters of the two cup clubs have been involved in violent clashes twice already this season. KNVB spokesman Wim Jesse said the association would meet Eindhoven officials to finalise arrangements and fix a new date for the week after June 3.

Norway, Italy prepare for European games

OSLO (R) — Italy, three times world champions, seek to avenge one of the more embarrassing defeats in their history when they take on Norway in a soccer friendly on Thursday. As reigning world champions, Italy lost 2-1 to Norway when they last met in 1985. It was a result which the Norwegians demonstrated was something more than an isolated upset when they beat Denmark and Argentina last year. Both teams will be looking ahead to important ties in the European championship Thursday.

Ireland looks for convincing victory

LUXEMBOURG (R) — Ireland, badly in need of goals to sustain their European Soccer championship challenge, turn to the likeliest source on Thursday when they play Luxembourg in a group seven qualifying game. So far Luxembourg have given away 16 goals in four games while scoring one. It is a record that has been a recurring theme for the team from the Grand Duchy who last won a game in the championship in 1963 and have not avoided defeat since a 1-1 draw against Sweden in 1969. Ireland's historic defeat of Brazil through Liam Brady's goal in Dublin last Saturday has put the Irish in the right frame of mind as they attempt to close a three-point gap separating them from section leaders Bulgaria. They are also two behind Belgium. Luxembourg will field only three professional footballers: striker Roby Langers, midfielder Guy Hellens and 18-year-old Jeff Saibene. Hellens will be the main obstacle to the Irish in midfield, while the visitors will also need to be wary of breakthrough runs by Langers.

Johnson dares Lewis to make for sprint showdown

SEVILLE, Spain (R) — World number one sprinter Ben Johnson has challenged Olympic champion Carl Lewis to join him for a 100-metres showdown at an outdoor athletics meeting here on Thursday. "I've come to win," said the muscular Canadian, who holds the world's best non-altitude time over the distance. "If Lewis wants a challenge, he should run the 100 metres." Despite rumours in the Spanish press that Lewis would not show up, organisers in Seville insisted that he would be arriving later Wednesday and competing in the 100 metres. Johnson, who supplanted quadruple gold medalist Lewis as world number one, will be tested in any case by another American, world record holder Calvin Smith. The other major attraction of the meeting is the 3,000 metres race with 800-metres world record holder Sebastian Coe of Britain heading a very strong field.

Brazilians move on to Helsinki

LONDON (R) — Brazil play the fourth game of their European soccer tour in Helsinki on Thursday having demonstrated in three games in the British isles that their capacity to surprise remains unimpaired.

They embarked on the tour amid bitter wrangling over the national federation's right to choose players regardless of club commitments. The result was the team was short of experience and apparently ill equipped to tackle European sides on their own grounds.

But Tuesday night's 2-0 win over Scotland in Glasgow meant Brazil lifted the Stanley Rous

Cup, a triangular tournament also involving England, and prompted coach Carlos Alberto Silva to make his first favourable assessment of Brazil's chances in the 1990 World Cup.

Silva said: "We are a very young and inexperienced team, but we came over here to put things together for the next World Cup."

"We want to combine the artistry of the Brazilian game with the tight marking of the Europeans. If we can do that, I believe we can go a long way in the next World Cup in Italy."

Andy Roxburgh, Scotland's manager, was also impressed.

Monaco race master puts safety first

MONTE CARLO (R) — Alain Prost, the master of Monaco, is in no great rush to become the most successful Grand Prix driver of all time.

A fourth successive victory in the principality on Sunday would be a fitting place for twice world champion Prost to score a record 28th Formula One victory.

But the Frenchman has made it plain that he is not prepared to take risks to reach that target, particularly on the narrow streets of Monaco where there is simply not enough room for safe overtaking.

Prost and other drivers believe there is even more risk than usual this year because a full grid of 26 cars will start the race, six more than usual at Monte Carlo.

The champion also believes the problems caused by a crowded track will be aggravated by the appreciable difference in the speeds of turbocharged and non-turbocharged machinery.

"It will be a difficult and perhaps dangerous race," he said. "Certainly, I will not be taking any chances just to try and

break more records."

The McLaren driver regained command of the championship by winning in Belgium two weeks ago, his second triumph in three races to date this year. The SPA success equalled the 14-year-old record of 27 wins by Briton Jackie Stewart.

Should Prost find a clear road to the flag he will become the first man to win four consecutive Monaco Grand Prix — a feat Graham Hill of Britain could not achieve while winning five times between 1963 and 1969.

But he must be prepared for a determined challenge from his Williams, Lotus and Ferrari rivals as well as teammate Stefan Johansson of Sweden, currently second in the standings.

Soviet volleyballers vanquish Americans

CHICAGO (AP) — The Soviet Union's women's volleyball team defeated the U.S. national team 15-4, 15-6 and 15-12 on Tuesday night.

The games, played at Depaul University's Alumni Hall, marked the second straight time in the two teams' five-match exhibition series that the Soviet Union has won.

The Soviets dominated the United States in the first two games behind the steady setting of Irina Parhamchuk.

The strong serving performance by the Soviets, who had six

service aces as a team Tuesday night, kept the United States on the defensive.

The heavy hitters for the Soviets were Elena Volkova with 13 spikes and Marina Nikulina and Elena Tchekbukina with 12 and 11 spikes, respectively. Tchekbukina also had three of the Soviets' six aces.

The Soviets' Valentina Ogienko celebrated her 23rd birthday by punching 10 spikes.

In the third game of the match, the United States made a run at the Soviets and led 8-6 in the early going.

Connors backs McEnroe who limped out off court with injury to knee, pride and reputation

PARIS (R) — Jimmy Connors came to the support of his old adversary John McEnroe at the French Open tennis championships Wednesday.

Connors, 34, one-time firebrand but now relishing his role as elder statesman, beat American Todd Nelson in straight sets to reach the second round before devoting much of his post-match news conference to McEnroe's latest problems.

Though six years Connors' junior, McEnroe limped out in the first round on Tuesday with injuries to his knees, pride and reputation, and with doubts over his physical and mental ability to reclaim the coveted number one spot in the men's rankings.

McEnroe has returned home for a two-week rest, but he could be missing for up to six months if the Men's International Professional Tennis Council (MIPTC) take further action when they meet in two weeks' time to discuss the American's disqualification during the world team cup in Dusseldorf.

"I have every sympathy with John because I went through ex-

actly the same in my time," said Connors.

"Over the years you develop a sort of kinship with certain players with whom you've enjoyed a special rivalry. I've been honoured to have three great rivalries — you're lucky to get one in your whole career — against John, Bjorn Borg and latterly Ivan Lendl.

"But there's no way I can offer McEnroe any advice... he's a big boy and he's got to do it on his own if he wants to come back."

"I don't mean that in any derogatory way, but what I might say would be good for me but wouldn't necessarily be good for him. Besides, he has plenty of people around him, who know his play and who've been with him throughout his life, to sit down and talk to."

"He'll either fight and come through it — in which case he'll be better than before and that would be something to see — or he'll take another six-month sabbatical like last year."

"But when you take six months off you go back, the rest move forward and really you've lost a

year... that's the way John looked Tuesday against De La Pena."

"I'll tell you this, though, every single guy out there should be pleased he's around — he's brought them a living by creating as much interest as anyone who has ever played."

NEW YORK (AP) — The Kansas City Royals, even with George Brett absent, are looking like the class of the American League West.

Willie Wilson opened Tuesday night's game with a home run and Danny Jackson struck out a career-high 12 as the Royals beat the Chicago White Sox 5-4.

Kansas City won for the third straight time and has won 11 of its last 13, opening up a five-game lead in the AL West.

In other AL games, Detroit downed Texas 8-7 in 11 innings, Boston held off Cleveland 6-5 and Minnesota beat Milwaukee 4-2.

Jackson, 2-6, walked only one and gave up eight hits, including

Kansas Royals aces of American baseball

Greg Walker's two-run homer with one out in the ninth inning. Dan Quisenberry recorded the final two outs for his sixth save.

Jackson, with his nasty slider working, retired 13 straight batters at one stretch. He struck out Harold Baines four times.

Wilson hit his first home run of the season opening the game against Bill Long, 1-1.

Wilson hit a two-out double in the seventh after a single by Jamie Quirk, setting up a two-run single by Kevin Seitzer that made it 4-1.

After Walker and Ken Williams, who homered in the second, hit doubles in the eighth that pulled Chicago within 4-2, Kansas City pinch-hitter Hal

McRae had an RBI single in the ninth.

Frank White's solo homer had given the Royals a 2-1 lead in the fourth.

The Royals lead second-place Minnesota and Seattle by five games, even with Brett back on the disabled list for the second time this season.

Kirk Gibson hit a two-out, two-run double in the bottom of the 11th inning to give Detroit its victory over Texas.

Gibson, who homered earlier in the game, doubled to left-centre off Dale Mohoric, 3-2, after one-out singles by Dave Bergman and Lou Whitaker.

Pete O'Brien had led off the Texas 11th with a home run off winner Mike Henneman, 2-0.

The host Tigers won their third straight game and have won 11 of their last 13.

Ruben Sierra hit two homers and drove in four runs for the Rangers.

Red Sox 6, Indians 5

Dave Henderson hit a three-run homer and Wade Boggs had two doubles and a single as Boston beat visiting Cleveland. The Red Sox won two games in a row

for the first time in three weeks.

Henderson's homer capped a four-run second inning and made it 5-0 against Greg Swindell, 3-4.

AL Nipper, 4-4, pitched 7 1/3 innings and gave up 11 hits, including a home run by Tony Bernazard.

Joe Carter hit a three-run homer, his eighth, with two outs in the Indians' ninth against Clavin Schiraldi.

National league

Dave Parker used his advancing years as inspiration to beat the Chicago Cubs.

"When you're 35 years old, you don't like to go past nine innings," Parker said Tuesday night after his ninth inning lead-off homer lifted the Cincinnati Reds over the Chicago Cubs 3-2.

"I said, 'I'm going to try to take one deep'."

But Parker had a little help.

As Parker's ball headed towards the 408-foot sign in centre field, Bob Dernier threw himself at the wall and stretched his glove over the top. The ball went into his glove, then popped out as he started bringing it back.

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets on Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.615065	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.344045	Canadian dollar
	1.822535	West German marks
	2.052535	Dutch guilders
	1.507080	Swiss francs
	37.6871	Belgian francs
	6.07750625	French francs
	1315/1317	Italian lira
	144.0010	Japanese yen
	6.34503500	Swedish crowns
	6.87507600	Norwegian crowns
	6.87508400	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	447.50448.00	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices were above lows in late trading after sterling steadied and investors reassessed the latest batch of election opinion polls, which on balance still showed the ruling Conservative Party with an advantage over the opposition.

By 1454 GMT the FTSE 100 share index was down 8.8 points to 2,144.6 after a low of 2,140.2 at 1009 GMT, when sterling was near its lows for the day.

The foreign exchange market responded to the erosion of the Tory party lead in the polls and sent the pound lower, dragging shares and government bonds down with sterling, dealers said.

The lacklustre opening on Wall Street was making for sluggish trading late in the day although the stronger dollar was helping to support some of the leading exporters.

Reuters shares were among the strongest gainers on Wednesday, rising 16p to 734 on a number of factors. Dealers said the higher dollar was helping the company's revenue potential while buying was detected ahead of interim results due in July.

The launch of the firm's new equities 2,000 quotations service also helped the shares rise, dealers said. Reuters said equities 2,000 is the first of a series of information products designed to use the firm's integrated data network.

Seoul to strengthen won

SEOUL (R) — The South Korean currency will continue to strengthen against major currencies, new Economic Planning Minister Chung In-Yong said Wednesday, hinting that the pace of the won's revaluation could quicken.

Mr. Chung, promoted Tuesday from finance minister to economic planning supreme and deputy prime minister, told reporters: "It is certain the won will continue to rise ... and I believe the appreciation should be made while the economy is doing well."

South Korea's gross national product (GNP) grew a real 15.6 per cent in the first quarter of this year over the same 1986 period. Officials say this year's growth is expected to surpass easily the government's target of eight per cent.

Seoul has already quickened the rise of the won, with the central bank Wednesday quoting a mid-rate of 824.30 to the dollar. This represents a 4.5 per cent gain in value against the dollar since the beginning of this year, compared with a 3.34 per cent gain for the whole of 1986.

The minister said, however, the government would not allow a large one-off revaluation and the won would only gradually gain strength.

Mr. Chung's pledge coincided with the arrival here of a senior official from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a series of economic policy talks. The exchange rate would figure high on the agenda, according to finance ministry officials.

They said Mr. Hubert Neiss,

the fund's deputy director for Asian affairs, would head a six-member IMF team for the talks that would also cover economic growth, pricing, trade and balance of payments issues.

South Korean officials have said Seoul will discuss the won's revaluation with the IMF rather than with the United States, which demands a significant appreciation to reduce its trade deficit with Seoul.

The Seoul government, under pressure from local exporters to resist a major revaluation that could wipe out their competitiveness, has tried without much success to appease Washington by taking other measures such as opening its market to imports.

In April, Seoul announced major changes in trade, investment and financial policies to limit the country's trade surplus with Washington to below \$3 billion this year. The surplus was \$7.3 billion in 1986.

South Korea later that month unveiled a list of \$2.6 billion worth of U.S. goods it will buy this year. This was in addition to about \$2 billion worth of purchases earlier this year by a trade mission to the United States.

Many economists said the surplus was still expected to total well over \$8 billion this year.

Last week, the government said it would require South Korean companies wanting to sell videotape recorders, microwave ovens, colour televisions, pianos and six other items to the United States to get export permits from July.

Vietnam daily calls for major banking reforms

BANGKOK (R) — Vietnam says its banking system badly needs an overhaul if people are to trust it with their savings and if the state is to control the economy.

The Communist Party newspaper Nhan Dan said banks were inadequate in issuing and managing the state's money and in offering enough cash through credit and banking services.

Nhan Dan's May 12 editorial, received here Wednesday, said red tape, sluggishness and bureaucratic centralism in banking had hit production, business and social activities.

"Our economy is facing inflation and a shortage of cash, in state agencies and the banking system. There is not enough cash to promptly meet requirements for production and purchases of goods ... so the state cannot control the source of goods and money," Nhan Dan said.

Vietnam by its own admission has chronic economic woes, including triple-digit inflation, massive unemployment, food and goods shortages and few foreign exchange reserves.

Attempts at wage, price and currency reforms in September 1985 flopped.

Reformist leaders who took over party top spots from a doctrinaire Marxist old-guard last December have made economic reform a top priority.

Nhan Dan said money paid out was not finding its way back. As a

result banks could not meet obligations to creditor groups or individuals with savings accounts.

The paper said economic organisations were holding on to cash and increasing non-bank cash flow in the market.

"Misuse of capital is on the increase and non-bank cash flow is increasingly prevalent. As a result the role of the bank as a payment centre for the economy is weakened," it said.

The article said "lively measures" were needed for banking reform but did not say if specific steps were planned. "Banks must first of all reserve sufficient cash and encourage the use of banking instruments other than cash," it said.

"We must continue to encourage savings by appropriate interest rates, increase circulation of cash and apply various vigorous means to encourage cash loans," it noted.

Food and goods subsidies to state workers, which were supposed to have been eliminated by the 1985 reforms, remain an inefficient aspect of the economy, Nhan Dan said.

Western diplomats here doubt whether Vietnam is capable of dramatic economic change. Its new leaders, in their mid-60s and 70s, still speak of reform jargon of the Stalin era.

Vietnam is dependent on massive Soviet aid, which it admits to have squandered.

World borrowing may decline

PARIS (R) — Borrowing on world capital markets is slowing and might be lower this year compared with 1986 as participants become more cautious about uncertainties in the global economy, the OECD said Wednesday.

Capital markets, where companies and governments raise money through financial instruments such as shares or bonds, have adopted a "more sober assessment" of world economic prospects, said the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

The Paris-based think-tank's latest survey of financial market trends said that the euphoria which buoyed capital markets un-

til late 1986 had subsided.

Between 1984 and 1986, the total volume of borrowing facilities arranged virtually doubled to \$378.1 billion from \$197.3 billion, but growth has since slowed dramatically.

Borrowing in first quarter 1987 totalled \$85.1 billion, almost unchanged year-on-year from 1986 and was down \$12 billion from last quarter 1986, the OECD said.

In a secret OECD report to its 24-member nations, a mass-circulation Japanese daily said this week that the OECD has painted a grim picture of the world's economy in 1992.

The Mainichi Shimbun said the OECD expects the United States to rack up a cumulative current account deficit of \$1,140 billion by 1992, more than the total debt now held by all the world's developing countries. The current account measures trade in goods and services.

The newspaper, which gave no source for its story, said the OECD was forced to withhold publication of the report at the end of last year for fear it would trigger panic on world currency

and financial markets. A foreign ministry spokesman was unavailable to comment.

According to Mainichi, the OECD warned members that the dollar could fall sharply and world trade shrink drastically if they failed to act.

Japan's cumulative current account surplus would amount to more than \$660 billion in 1992. Japanese unemployment, already hovering around a record three per cent, would rise to 4.9 per cent in 1992.

West Germany's current account surplus would remain large, averaging more than \$20 billion a year from 1987 to 1992, the OECD forecast.

Dollar powers on; sterling fails to steady

LONDON (R) — The dollar raced ahead in early European trading Wednesday as more investors anticipated that U.S. interest rates would rise soon to boost the currency on foreign exchange markets and ease world trade tensions, dealers said.

A welter of sell-orders touched off by the dollar's rebound sent the gold price down, while a poll showing Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's ruling Conservative Party extending its lead ahead of a June 11 election failed to steady the British pound.

Confidence in the dollar sent share values of Wall Street soaring on Tuesday, but in Asia shares lost ground as hopes for cuts in Japan's discount rate waned with the surging dollar.

London shares initially pushed upwards on Wall Street's gains and the new opinion poll suggesting the pro-business Thatcher government would be reelected, but investors refused to follow the advance through, leaving shares generally mixed.

"There's a lot of caution out

there," one London share analyst said, commenting on public's pre-election nerves.

In London the pound hit a low in early trading of \$1.6045 compared with a close of \$1.6355 on Tuesday.

Gold was fixed here Wednesday morning at \$447.90 an ounce, against \$449 at Tuesday afternoon's fix. It closed Wednesday in Hong Kong at \$451.25.

In Frankfurt, the dollar opened over one pfennig above Tuesday's close at 1.8150 West German marks and swiftly broke the 1.82 mark level, hitting a peak of 1.8285 marks.

Its top level on Tuesday in the United States was 1.8195, its highest for more than a month.

The dollar seemed a poor buy in recent weeks — it traded as low as 1.7690 in early May — because of concern over the huge U.S. trade and budget deficits.

But speculation has been growing over an rise soon in U.S. interest rates, dealers said.

They expected the Federal Reserve, the U.S. central bank, to

give a clear signal to its allies of its willingness to prevent the dollar renewing its slide ahead of the June 8 summit in Venice of seven major non-communist industrial nations.

Some dealers said other factors also supported the dollar.

"There has been a drop in commodity prices, inflation looks less threatening, and the bond market looks better. That's good news for the dollar," one dealer at a U.S. bank in London said.

But a West German dealer attributed the rise to activity between traders eager to gamble and make a "fast buck" on the dollar. "It's purely technical trading," said another.

Traders themselves decided to push up the dollar after weeks of little activity at around 1.7778 marks, he said.

Looking to the longer term, dealers said it was too soon to say whether this week's technical gains were the start of a dollar turnaround. "Remember on the way down over the last two years we've seen quite sharp technical

setbacks back up which have lasted several weeks," the U.S. bank dealer said.

Sterling slipped against all other major currencies as Tuesday's opinion polls showed the ruling Conservatives' lead over the Labour Party had narrowed in the run-up to the June 11 election.

"You're trading opinion polls really," said one dealer, commenting on a new poll Wednesday which showed the lead increasing.

The market was particularly nervous ahead of British trade figures due to be published Thursday which are expected to show some deterioration.

In New York the Dow Jones industrial average closed 54.74 points up at 2,297.54, its third largest points gain in history. However, in Tokyo the Nikkei market average lost 41.12 points to close at 24,539.75.

At 1015 GMT London's Financial Times/Stock Exchange index was 2,141.5 points.

World Bank qualifies Philippine land reform

MANILA (R) — The World Bank has told the Philippines it will not lend money for the purchase of farmland to be distributed to the poor but has given cautious approval to the government's ambitious land reform programme.

In a confidential report, a copy of which was obtained by Reuters, the bank warned that the programme contained several provisions that could raise costs; cause lengthy legal delays and even result in the ultimate failure of the reforms.

The report followed a World Bank mission's visit to the Philippines in March to assess the programme.

President Corason Aquino is under pressure to proclaim the reforms before a new congress convenes in July. Her power to decree laws ends with the opening of the congress.

A draft decree on Mrs. Aquino's desk would limit all agricultural land holdings to seven hectares (17 acres).

Agrarian reform officials say the plan aims to distribute nearly 3.8 million hectares (9.5 million acres) of surplus land to more

than two million landless farmworkers by 1992.

The sweeping reforms take in all rice and corn land as well as the country's sprawling banana, coconut and sugar plantations.

The World Bank report said the plan far exceeded former president Ferdinand Marcos's land reforms, which transferred only 300,000 hectares (740,000 acres) of rice and corn land to about 200,000 beneficiaries over a 14-year period.

It represents a quantum jump compared to previous attempts at land reform in the Philippines," it said.

But it said the programme, estimated at putting the government back about 48 billion pesos (\$2.3 billion), was very costly and its financing would require hard choices by the administration.

It said the programme was affordable but added: "The World Bank itself would not be able to finance compensation payments (to landowners) for the transfer of land."

Finance Secretary Jaime Ongpin told reporters Tuesday he hoped to meet international aid donors led by the World Bank in

Tokyo in early July to push for \$500 million in concessional loans as "seed money" for the programme.

"We do not want the programme to get bogged down because we don't have the cash up front," Mr. Ongpin said.

A draft decree readied for Mrs. Aquino's signature had blank spaces in the paragraph allocating money for the programme.

The World Bank echoed Mr. Ongpin's doubts about plans to raise money through the privatisation of over 100 government-owned companies and the sale of assets seized from Marcos associates.

It suggested that the government could raise taxes, borrow more money or reallocate its budgetary resources.

The report suggested the government simultaneously include all types of farmland in the reforms instead of spacing out coverage of different categories in four phases.

It also expressed doubts about progressive land ceilings of 50 hectares (125 acres) immediately, 24 hectares (60 acres) by 1991 and

seven hectares (17 acres) by 1992, saying landowners would be tempted to sell surplus land or transfer it illegally to relatives.

The World Bank said the final ceiling should apply at once.

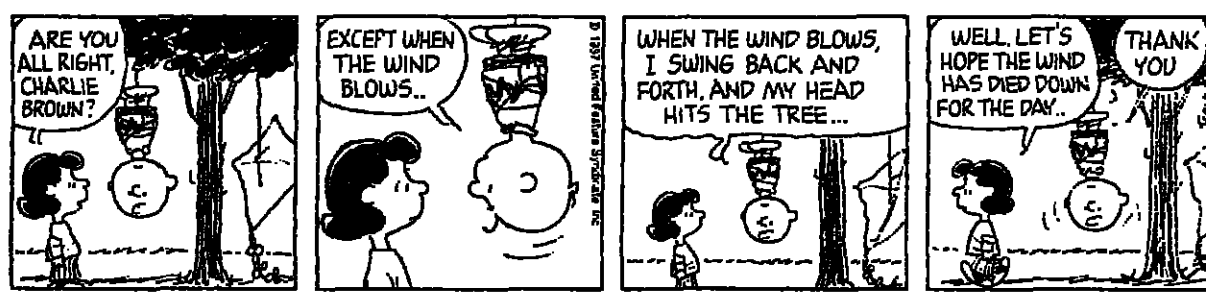
The report said that instead of asking peasants to pay for the land over a 30-year period, a step that would need a costly apparatus to collect instalments, each farmer given a small plot could be asked to pay a one-time fee of 600 pesos (\$30).

Finally, it said the programme erred in expecting landowners to identify the potential beneficiaries and called on the government to decide this, as well as the cost of the land.

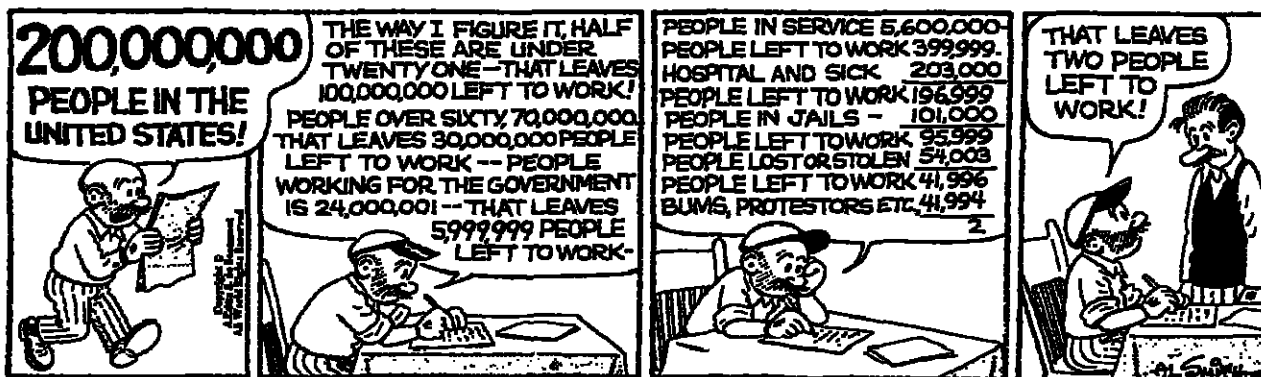
"Seldom in the history of a country does the right window of opportunity present itself to proceed with a comprehensive land reform programme," the report said.

"Land reform is an undeniably wrenching experience for a country. It is therefore of the utmost importance that it be implemented as effectively as possible, so as to achieve the intended results once and for all," it noted.

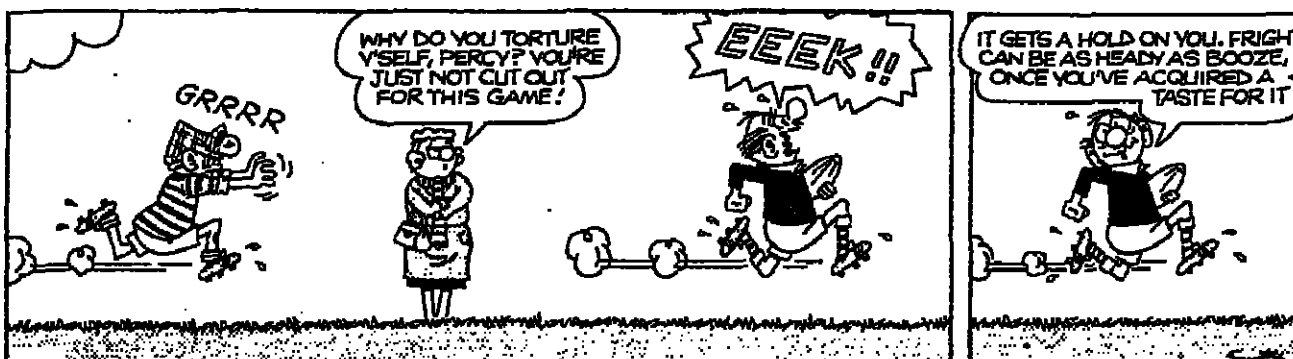
Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



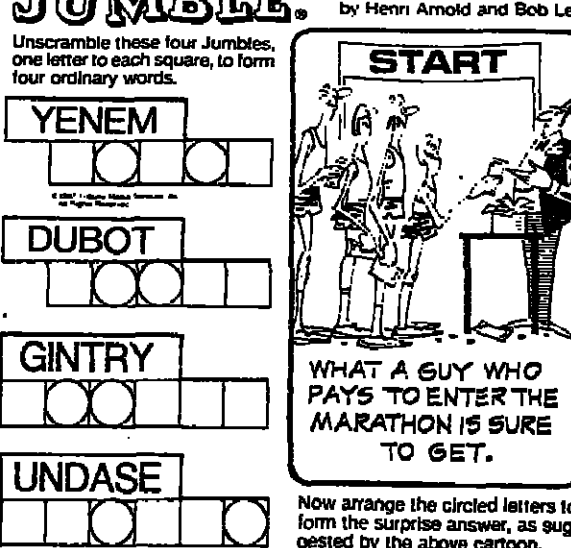
Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



Sri Lankan rebels melt away as troops advance on Jaffna

COLOMBO (R) — Tamil guerrillas are melting away before the advance of Sri Lankan troops trying to break their hold on the northern Jaffna peninsula, a government spokesman said Wednesday.

"The terrorists are disappearing. There has been no direct resistance since some at the start of the operation yesterday," Tilak Ratnakara told Reuters.

He said the rebels lost 20 men on the first day and the government lost 11 dead and 40 wounded through landmine explosions and booby-traps, but there had been no further reports of clashes or casualties.

More than 3,000 troops poured out of government bases Tuesday to mount the biggest-ever assault on rebels who have virtually controlled the Jaffna peninsula and

its 800,000 predominantly Tamil inhabitants for two years.

Mr. Ratnakara said the troops were trying to seize the Vadamadachchi region. This north-eastern corner of the peninsula is isolated from the rest of Jaffna by a broad salt-water lagoon.

He said troops were operating on both sides of the lagoon. "Once the area is under control most of the government military camps in the peninsula will be linked together. That is the first step in the process of domination."

Reporters were barred by the

government from entering the Jaffna peninsula and there was no way of independently checking the progress of the operation.

The 10 army, navy and air force bases have until now been cut off from each other and surrounded by guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of students. The guerrillas are estimated to total up to 3,700 men.

The rebels have fought since 1983 for an independent home-land in the north and east for Sri Lanka's two million Tamils, who form 13 per cent of the island's 16 million Sinhalese-majority population. The conflict has cost more than 6,000 lives.

Vadamadachchi is 22 kilometres north-east of Jaffna city, the heart of Tamil resistance. Mr. Ratnakara said there was no intention at present of attacking the city of 150,000 inhabitants.

"That would mean a blitzkrieg and a lot of civilian casualties and we don't expect to do a blitzkrieg," he said.

The terrain where the troops are operating is flat, overgrown with tall scrub interspersed with fields of onion and chillies amid towering palm trees. To the south of Vadamadachchi is the Manalkadu Desert.

Mr. Ratnakara said the rebels were not fighting back against the government offensive.

Webster sworn in as CIA chief

LANGLEY, Va. (R) — President Reagan has stoutly defended the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in a speech at the swearing-in of William Webster as the new head of the scandal-ridden spy agency.

"It has become fashionable in some quarters to ask if the Central Intelligence Agency were somehow not completely a part of our own government — as if it were not constantly working against hostile powers who threaten the security of the American people," Mr. Reagan said in remarks prepared for delivery to employees at the agency's sprawling headquarters in a suburb of Washington.

"But our liberty, our way of

life, required eternal vigilance. The United States cannot survive in the world without a vigorous intelligence agency, capable of acting swiftly and in secret."

Mr. Webster, 63, served as director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) from 1978 until last March when he was named to succeed William Casey as head of the spy agency.

He was widely credited with restoring the reputation of the FBI after it was rocked by scandals in the early 1970s.

Meanwhile, the search for a new director of the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has proved more difficult than expected as several contenders rejected overtures for the job,

Reagan administration officials said Tuesday.

Attorney General Edwin Meese has been seeking a candidate to head the FBI since March 3.

In a brief interview with reporters before Mr. Webster's swearing-in ceremony, Mr. Meese was asked when a new director will be chosen.

"Soon. There is a good long list. We are whittling it down. No one has been offered it yet," Mr. Meese said.

Terry Eastland, the chief spokesman for Meese, denied reports that increasingly impatient White House officials have been expressing Mr. Meese to wind up his extensive search.

2 Japanese held for hi-tech exports to Moscow

TOKYO (R) — Two senior officials of a top Japanese machine-tool maker were arrested Wednesday after being accused of illegally exporting high technology equipment to the Soviet Union, police said.

The officials, Ryuzo Hayashi, 52, a director of Toshiba Machine Co. Ltd., and Hiroaki Tamamura, 50, a deputy director, were arrested while being questioned at police headquarters here.

They are accused of exporting to the Soviet Union high-technology machine tools capable of making almost silent submarine propellers. The shipments were made between December 1982 and June 1983, police said.

The government has already imposed a one-year ban on any further shipments of goods by the company to Communist countries.

The machine tools are subject to an export ban by the Paris-based Coordinating Committee for Export Control (COCOM) which monitors exports of strategic goods to Communist countries.

Police said the Ministry of International Trade and Industry approved the exports after Toshiba gave false statements about the capability of the equipment.

Towards the end of 1983, Hayashi and others in the company who were not named had improved cutter heads and other parts manufactured on order from the Soviet Union. The items were shipped from Yokohama, near Tokyo, on June 20, 1984, without ministry approval, police added.

They also modified a computer programme manual necessary for effective operation of the parts and asked an employee of another company to carry the manual in his baggage on a flight to the Soviet Union 10 days later, police said.

Malaysia to help supply goods previously sent from Australia.

Fiji's 714,000 people are facing food shortages, with stocks of flour and rice running low and supplies of imported fresh vegetables dwindling.

Mara said he had joined the interim administration because "I felt that my country was going to ruin."

But he warned his fellow Fijians against turning Indians into second-class citizens.

Fiji to seek help from Asian countries

SUVA (R) — Fiji will contact Asian countries to help it overcome an export ban imposed by trade unions in Australia and New Zealand in protest against the military overthrow of the elected government, its former Prime Minister said Wednesday.

Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, who is in charge of foreign affairs in Fiji's interim administration, told reporters he would give top priority to securing the country's food supply.

With the political crisis in the South Pacific island chain deepening amid continued protest action by supporters of ousted Prime Minister Timoci Bavadra, the embargo by Australian and New Zealand unions is beginning to bite.

Mara ruled Fiji for 17 years until Bavadra's left-leaning government won power in elections last month.

He said he would contact Japan, China, South Korea and

4 arrested for causing Chinese forest fire

PEKING (R) — Two workers who lit cigarettes and two others who ran machines illegally in tinder-dry forest have been arrested for starting the biggest forest fire in the history of Communist China, a government official said Wednesday.

The workers may face execution for causing the deaths of almost 200 people in a fire that blackened a huge area before it was brought under control Tuesday by firefighters, some of whom had only branches or wet clothes to beat out the flames.

"Forest fires of such magnitude are very often beyond human control," said Forestry Vice-Minister Liu Guangyun, citing force eight winds that moved flames at up to 60 kilometres an hour during the three-week fire in

the north-east.

"The soldiers were caught unprepared and had to use whatever they could lay their hands on," Mr. Liu told a news conference at which he spoke of people in one town, Xinjinzhen, fleeing naked in the night as the fire roared down on them.

"This place was engulfed within one hour and local residents had no time to put on their clothes before they escaped from their homes," he said.

Although earlier estimates had put the death toll from the fires at more than 200, Mr. Liu said the most reliable figures were 191 believed dead, 221 seriously injured and 56,000 people in almost 11,000 households "victimized."

Liu said the dead included only one firefighter who was caught

Soviet Bloc reporters need escort at State Department

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. State Department will require Soviet and other Warsaw Pact journalists to have escorts within its building, a department spokeswoman said.

But spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley denied a Soviet report that journalists from Warsaw Pact nations were being barred from State Department briefings.

Ms. Oakley said the new regulations, effective next Monday, were part of a year-long programme to enhance building security.

"We are simply applying the same regulations to them which we have applied to Soviet and Warsaw Pact diplomats for some time, namely that access to the department will be under escort," Ms. Oakley said.

In Moscow, a Foreign Ministry spokeswoman, Yuri Gremitskikh, said Tuesday the U.S. move was a breach of the 1975 Helsinki Accords, designed to promote a free flow of people and ideas, and made the work of Soviet-Bloc correspondents in Washington more difficult.

However, the Soviet Union would not retaliate, Mr. Gremitskikh told reporters.

Ms. Oakley told Reuters that on May 15 the State Department sent the new regulations to the embassies of the Soviet Union, Romania, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Bulgaria and Poland.

"A new security system for the building is going into place this year that will affect everyone," she said.

She said that as part of the programme, Western reporters' access to the building would henceforth be limited to the press

Seoul removes police chief over torture death

SEOUL (R) — South Korea's new cabinet sacked the national police chief Wednesday in a fresh move to cool anger over the torture-killing of a student activist, as dissidents vowed to continue protests.

A government spokesman said Seoul's city police chief Kwon Bok-Kyung had replaced Lee Young-Chang.

Submitting his resignation, Lee said he accepted moral responsibility for failing to prevent a scandal over an alleged cover-up of the death.

Student Park Chong-Chol died during police torture in January. President Chun Doo Hwan sacked Prime Minister Lho Shin-Yong and three other key ministers Tuesday to try to end uproar over the death.

Those sacked included Chung

Salak, 34, "the first martyr-priest under the fascist reactionary U.S.-Aquino regime" — the way the rebels refer to President Corazon Aquino's administration.

The National Democratic Front said Salak, its secretary-general for the southern Philippines, died to death after he was shot during a surprise army assault on an NDF meeting in Davao Del Norte province.

"It is with deep sorrow that we accept the death of a beloved comrade in the revolution," the NDF said.

Salak was one of about a dozen rural Filipino priests who took up arms against Manila during the rule of Ferdinand Marcos after being disillusioned by government failure to improve the lives of impoverished peasants.

Meanwhile unidentified men shot and killed the brother of a former provincial governor Tuesday and wounded a municipal election registrar, authorities said.

Police said they had not established the motive for the attack on a road near Jolo airport, Sulu Island, some 1,000 kilometres south of Manila.

They said six men in a red vehicle, armed with M-16 rifles and 45-caliber pistols, blocked the road as a blue Ford carrying Jose Izquierdo and Gregorio Bukis approached.

Izquierdo, younger brother of the late Sulu Gov. Muss Izquierdo, died immediately and Bukis was wounded. Other passengers were unharmed and the assailants escaped.

COLUMNS 768

Miss Chile wins Miss Universe title

SINGAPORE (R) — Cecilia Bolocco, a 22-year-old fashion designer from Chile, was Wednesday crowned Miss Universe 1987 to strengthen Latin America's grip on the beauty contest circuit. Miss Bolocco was chosen for the crown from 68 contestants at the cavernous Singapore World Trade Centre, more accustomed to seeing high-tech equipment and machinery on display than beautiful women. First runner-up was Miss Italy, Roberta Capua, an 18-year-old model. Early favourite Miss United States, Michelle Royer, was chosen second runner-up. Miss Venezuela, Ines Maria Calero, was third runner-up and Miss Puerto Rico, Lauri Tamara Simpson, fourth. They were chosen from 10 semi-finalists including Miss Philippines, Geraldine Asia; Miss Peru, Jessica Newton; Miss Singapore, Marion Nicole Teo; Miss Sweden, Susanne Karin Thoenigren and Miss Turks and Caicos, Carmelita Ariza. The new Miss Universe, who has green eyes and brown hair, said her ambition was to become a successful fashion designer with her own fashion house. Born in Santiago on May 19, 1965, Miss Bolocco stands 1.71 metres and lists her hobbies as ballet and modern dancing. She is the first Chilean contestant to win the Miss Universe crown.

Sally Ride to leave NASA

WASHINGTON (R) — Sally Ride, the first American woman in space, has announced she would quit the U.S. space programme in August to join an arms control think tank at Stanford University. Ms. Ride, who turned 36 Monday and was divorced earlier this month from her astronaut husband, has spent most of the past year working in Washington as a special assistant for long-range planning to National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) chief James Fletcher. Before leaving the space agency, Miss Ride said she would submit a report on a variety of projects under consideration by NASA, including establishing a U.S. base on the moon, sending robot probes to distant planets and human exploration of Mars. A veteran of two space shuttle flights during her nine-year career with NASA, Miss Ride served as the only active-duty astronaut on the commission President Reagan appointed to investigate the Jan. 28, 1986 explosion of the shuttle Challenger that killed all seven on board.

Rebels give stolen chickens to poor

BOGOTA (R) — Heavily-armed guerrillas of Colombia's M-19 group raided a truck carrying poultry and proceeded to distribute the 1,300 chickens to residents of poor districts in the south of Cali, police have said. City officials said the rebels had applied those tactics to milk in the past and that the latest action apparently set a new trend.

Jihan Sadat rules out remarriage

WASHINGTON (AP) — The widow of late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat has said she never thinks of remarriage "because there will not be anyone who will replace Sadat." Jehan Sadat, 53, spoke with reporters at the annual convention of the American Booksellers Association during promotion of her forthcoming autobiography, "Jehan Sadat. A Woman of Egypt" scheduled for publication in mid-August in the United States. It also will be published in Arabic in Egypt, she said. Mrs. Sadat, who has returned to teaching literature and lecturing, said she will not be silenced by the danger that "narrow-minded or fundamentalist" religious fanatics might try to assassinate her as they did her husband in Cairo in 1981. She voiced hopes that her lectures and autobiography will help Westerners understand Islam, Egypt and Egyptian women. "As a Muslim woman, I have to say what I believe in," she said. This, she continued, includes observing the fast and respecting fathers, husbands and brothers while also sharing with them "as partners" the burdens of life and family.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Beth Ettenson

CURSORY RHYMES

By Hank Harrington

ACROSS

- 1 Depart suddenly
- 2 Assurance
- 3 Exotic youngster
- 10 Follows: able
- 19 Pompos speaker
- 20 Tracks
- 21 "God's Little"
- 22 Parrot
- 23 Bull fight
- 24 Foreign custody
- 25 Arab notable
- 26 Actual
- 27 March anti
- 28 Exposure
- 34 Polymath god
- 35 — Jan
- 36 Spartan slave
- 37 Dies —
- 38 Elevator man
- 39 Mubarak's predecessor
- 40 Sliding room
- 41 Twit
- 42 Dilemma
- 44 Former NY governor
- 45 Stinger
- 47 Massachusetts
- 48 More than
- 49 Willing
- 50 Act like
- 51 — Tongue
- 52 "God's Little"
- 54 Building
- 55 Material
- 56 Center
- 57 Period
- 58 Expression of disbelief
- 61 Motor
- 62 Excuse me!
- 65 Pair
- 66 Astronaut
- 67 Baseball's Mel
- 68 Club's pole
- 69 Commercial
- 70 Voice
- 71 But, last
- 72 Overdue
- 73 Narrate news
- 74 Set at rest
- 75 Roman road
- 76 A Kennedy
- 77 Chalk, post
- 78 Part of NATO
- 79 abhor
- 80 Apollo
- 81 Certain family
- 82 Auto
- 83 Certain family
- 84 Brother
- 85 Grandiose poem
- 86 Denude
- 87 Light beds
- 88 Gr. letter
- 89 Chair
- 90 Singer Delta
- 91 Repetitive exclamation
- 92 Club's pole
- 93 Fletcher's spot
- 101 "All About"
- 102 Camelot lady
- 103 Spot
- 104 Kind of wagon
- 105 Eisenhower
- 106 Mile
- 107 Secluded valley
- 108 Meadow
- 109 F.A. at risk
- 110 How do you play this?
- 111 Kismet: abhor
- 112 Brotherly
- 113 French
- 114 Gr. sea
- 120 Before
- 121 Ram
- 122 Star part
- 123 Underwater scoop

DOWN

- 1 "What's up —?"
- 2 Age
- 3 Western
- 4 Clothing
- 5 Covered with
- 6 Relative of
- 7 Semitic language
- 8 Cubane for
- 9 Everyone
- 10 Metric measure
- 11 Ear, river
- 12 Distinct
- 13 Wallows
- 14 Prepare for
- 15 Fido's gear
- 16 Seat spanking?
- 17 Western trail
- 18 Officers to be
- 24 Improved
- 25 Recruits
- 30 Duck
- 32 Catcher's glove
- 33 Solo
- 34 Toss toppling
- 35 Drop
- 43 Under: neut.
- 44 More wily
- 45 Dictator
- 46 Stone and iron
- 48 Trolley car
- 49 School subj.
- 60 Pasta prize?
- 62 Way
- 63 Band
- 55 Between: pret.
- 56 Embars
- 57 L. land
- 58 Winter hazard
- 60 Football
- 61 Contrived?
- 62 Born
- 63 Involve in
- 64 Difficulties
- 67 Joyce Carol
- 70 Friend
- 72 Chalk, post
- 74 Eternity
- 75 Relatives
- 76 You
- 82 Ranch denizen
- 83 Vetch
- 84 Stamping out
- 86 Decapitated
- 87 Auditory
- 88 Doughboy
- 89 Ling Ling
- 91 Cut
- 92 Speak show
- 94 Unit of current
- 95 Borrowed auto
- 96 Versatile
- 97 Nervous
- 98 Heavy hammer
- 100 Units of force
- 102 Icelandic
- 103 Bat or bird
- 106 Off
- 110 Chast
- 112 Arm
- 113 Energy unit
- 114 Bring up the rear
- 115 Mother's reading

Diagrams

19 X 19, by Frances Burton

ACROSS

- 1 Society one
- 5 Treasures
- 8 Ray
- 10 Book of maps
- 12 Find the answer to
- 13 Warlike
- 16 Visitor
- 17 Nostril
- 19 Wallows
- 20 Writer of judgments
- 22 Surrender
- 23 Other: pret.
- 24 Exclamation
- 25 Part of
- 26 Vers
- 27 Lawmaker
- 28 Bird
- 30 Soda tube
- 31 Resort
- 34 Furnish
- 35 Border
- 36 Arch
- 37 Inhabitant: suit
- 38 Passport endorsement
- 40 Very small
- 41 Defunct
- 42 Strip
- 43 Cord
- 44 Contard
- 45 Old Sp. language
- 47 Adorned
- 48 Nudity
- 49 Tarnish star
- 50 Part of Britain
- 51 Frying pan
- 52 Smelling
- 53 Alternative
- 54 Same
- 55 Actor Aldo
- 56 Lord or
- 57 Prig
- 60 Minute
- 61 Residence
- 62 Bay
- 63 Positive
- 64 Buried
- 65 Perfectly
- 66 Motiveless
- 67 Tracheous
- 68 person
- 69 Scatter
- 71 White Cilla
- 72 — Vagus
- 73 Measure of length: abbr.

DOWN

- 1 — Me
- 2 — King Cole
- 3 Labyrinth
- 4 Invention
- 5 Sliding base
- 7 Building
- 8 — Me
- 9 — Me
- 11 Exchanges
- 12 Exchanges
- 14 "True —"
- 15 Locales
- 16 Fragrant wood
- 18 Fishers
- 19 Under
- 21 Devised
- 22 Narrow raft
- 23 Get of war
- 26 Weathercock
- 28 Get up
- 29 Sp. teacher
- 31 Rotate
- 32 Glass square
- 33 Some
- 34 Perfectly
- 35 Tracheous
- 36 person
- 37 Scatter
- 41 White Cilla
- 42 — Vagus
- 43 Measure of length: abbr.
- 44 Bay
- 45 Positive
- 46 Buried
- 47 Perfectly
- 48 Motiveless
- 49 Tracheous
- 50 person
- 51 Scatter
- 54 Wild plain
- 57 — Vagus
- 58 Measure of length: abbr.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. ABCWDIIE ERFGIY BA RIMPG ANPPIE YRBM: WINTERLY TMR ER DGI DIET ED FNE D L D NEQDGERL XCD XIDDW

—By Comic-Rosefield

2. ZTAY NTZS HIBOOTAN OBOVI HBE B UNTIAMIAT STEEMY TEEM. —By Lois H. Jones

3. UCS WATCHTWD WATCHTWD TO KELS TCPSKYTL TK YU HUCKSAFS WATCHTWD. —By Ed Haddleton

4. UJJD TPJJOJE MJCOJE KIOM ZTI LKJM PLX HCYE ZI DJT HPCY ID KOHD. —By Earl Ireland

5. UJJD TPJJOJE MJCOJE KIOM ZTI LKJM PLX HCYE ZI DJT HPCY ID KOHD. —By Earl Ireland

6. UJJD TPJJOJE MJCOJE KIOM ZTI LKJM PLX HCYE ZI DJT HPCY ID KOHD. —By Earl Ireland

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SEARIF
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠8742 ♠84 ♠AQ93 ♣K7
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass ?
What action do you take?
A.—While your hand is nothing to write home about, you should not allow the opponents to play at the two-level uncontested. The fact they have subsided in two hearts despite having located a fit makes it a moral certainty that your partner has fair values. Bid two spades.
- Q.2—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠EJ763 ♣7 ♠84 ♠Q7642
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ Dble 1 ♠ ?
What action do you take?
A.—Despite the fact that you have excellent distributional values, your lack of high cards means you should not take any violent action. A free bid of one spade is adequate for the moment. For your side to make game, partner almost surely needs enough to bid voluntarily. But we won't quibble violently with two spades.
- Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠85 ♠K543 ♠QKJ72 ♠84
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Dble ?
What action do you take?
A.—Don't put too much value on the queen of spades — in the light of the double it is, at best, a doubtful asset. You have a weakish hand with fair trump support and some defensive values, and you can show that with a raise to two hearts.
- Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ73 ♠K5 ♠8432 ♠9
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ Dble Pass ?
What action do you take?
A.—With such a broken spade suit under the opening bidder, don't even contemplate for a moment converting partner's double to penalties. The correct response is one, no trump, which promises 8-10 points and at least one stopper in the enemy suit.
- Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠85 ♠AQJ8 ♠1093 ♠AKJ2
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one diamond. What action do you take?
A.—You are too strong to pass, but not strong enough to double and then bid a suit of your own should partner respond one spade. Therefore, you have to compromise and overall one heart despite the fact that you have only a four-card suit.